

Mercer's Legacy Expands Worldwide By Wes Griffith, Sonal Patel, Jenny Butkus

A life-sized bronze of Jesse Mercer sits on a bench on the quad of the Macon campus, where students, faculty, staff and alumni seldom pass by without giving a slight nod of acknowledgement — some out of respect, most out of affection. When he founded Mercer Institute in 1833, Jesse Mercer did so with a deep-rooted commitment to education and “intellectual preparation” and 39 students.

Mercer University has continued to advance the vision of its founder by attracting some of the most talented college freshmen in the country, adding new programs that build on its already solid academic foundation, and building state-of-the-art facilities that provide the optimum learning environment for its students.

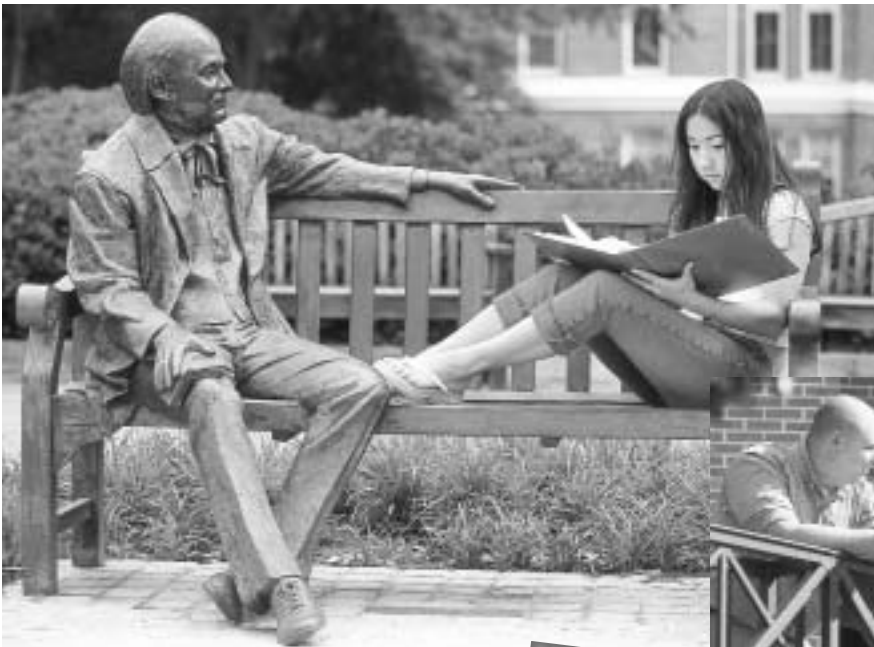
The freshman class of 2003 has the highest average SAT score of any Mercer class to date with an average of 1210. The 620 students that make up this year's freshman class also have a record-high grade-point-average of 3.6.

“Our freshman SAT average has increased 98 points since fall 2000,” said Allen London, vice president of University Admissions. “These students come from strong high school academic programs and have taken many advanced placement and honors courses. They are students we want to have at Mercer.”

Mercer's Health Sciences Center, which includes the Southern School of Pharmacy, School of Medicine and Georgia Baptist College of Nursing, began the fall with three strong new classes as well.

The School of Pharmacy received a record 1,347 applicants for its 130 openings. Dr. Jim Bartling, associate dean of Student Affairs and Admissions, anticipates another excellent new class.

“Our applicant pool is the largest in the nation with roughly 10 students applying for each position,” said



“The freshman class of 2003 has the highest average SAT score of any Mercer class to date with an average of 1210.

More than 90 students in the fall freshman class are members of the University's Chip Off the Old Block program.’



Bartling. “With so much competition for acceptance to the School, we were able to be highly selective and have brought in the most academically qualified class we've ever had.”

Sixty students began their medical education with Mercer this year. In line with the School of Medicine's mission to create healthcare professionals that meet the needs of

Georgia's medically underserved communities, enrollment in the doctor of medicine program was increased by four students.

The College of Nursing has also reached its highest enrollment numbers since the beginning of its baccalaureate program, with a growing waiting list of well-qualified applicants.

In addition, the University is expanding its academic programming to meet the needs of today's students. In the Tift College of Education, an innovative new graduate program, The Holistic Educator, premiered on the Macon campus as well as the Eastman Regional Academic Center during fall semester. The new master's degree offers professionals the opportunity to enhance their teaching methods and prepares graduates to better communicate with today's diverse student population.

Mercer increased its international recognition when the Walter F. George School of Law became home to the

Legal Writing Institute (LWI), the world's largest organization devoted to improving legal writing. The Institute's membership includes lawyers and legal writing teachers from across the United States and from Europe, Asia, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

“No other school could match Mercer's clear commitment to Legal Writing, as reflected both in the strength of the program you offer your students and your faculty's extensive contributions to the national Legal Writing community,” wrote LWI President Steven J. Johnson.

recreation rooms and an arena that seats up to 3,500 for athletic events and 4,500 for special events.

Mercer's advances aren't going unnoticed. The University's reputation as a premier university is no longer known only in the Southeast, but also across the nation. For the 14th consecutive year, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Mercer among the leading institutions in the South, and for the 10th year, *Barron's* named Mercer as a “Best Buy.” In addition, the popular college guide, *Peterson's*, has listed Mercer in its *Competitive Colleges Guide* for the past two years.

This year the University garnered two new prestigious rankings. The Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA recognized Mercer as a “highly selective” university. And, in July, *The Princeton Review* included Mercer in its popular publication, the *Best 351 Colleges in North America*. With 3,500 four-year colleges in the United States, that puts Mercer among the top 10 percent.

After processing factual information and polling students online for a year, *The Princeton Review* assessed Mercer in 10 categories: academics, administration,



demographics, parties, school type, politics, quality of life, extracurriculars, selectivity, and social. The survey resulted in *The Princeton Review* writing, “If you're looking for a small

school with ‘tough’ academics that is equally devoted to scholastic development and spiritual growth, then read on.”

With praises like that, it's no wonder why some of the brightest young people in the country are choosing to call Mercer home.

But perhaps the biggest honor bestowed on the University this year is the number of Mercer graduates and students whose relatives are coming to Mercer. More than 90 students in the fall

freshman class are members of the University's Chip Off the Old Block program, meaning they have a family member who attended or currently attends Mercer.

‘Mercer increased its international recognition when the Walter F. George School of Law became home to the Legal Writing Institute, the worlds' largest organization devoted to improving legal writing.’



CAMPUS TALK

university

Swindle Named Atlanta Senior V.P.

Dr. Richard V. Swindle, who spent 17 years of his administrative career at Mercer, returned to the University on June 1 to serve as senior vice president — Atlanta. Before his appointment, Swindle was serving as senior vice president for Institutional Advancement for Franklin College in Franklin, Ind., where he was responsible for development, public affairs, corporate and foundation relations, alumni services and church relations.

Prior to joining Franklin College in 1996, he was at Mercer, serving his last three years as senior associate vice president for University Advancement.

“We are extremely pleased that Dr. Swindle has returned to the University,” said President R. Kirby Godsey. “He is an outstanding leader and administrator, who has a talent for building community and collaboration. The University will greatly benefit from his understanding of Mercer, particularly the Atlanta campus, as well as the considerable experience he brings from Franklin College.”

Swindle is responsible for the coordination of all campus activity of the University's Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta. The 2,200-student campus includes the

Southern School of Pharmacy, Georgia Baptist College of Nursing and McAfee School of Theology, and programs of Tift College of Education, Stetson School of Business and Economics, the School of Engineering, and the College of Continuing and Professional Studies.

Swindle also has an active role in expanding Mercer's involvement in the Atlanta community and increasing the University's presence and visibility

through relationship building with Atlanta's corporate and community leaders.

While at Franklin College, Swindle planned and directed the successful completion of a \$48.5 million capital campaign, which exceeded its goal by more than 21 percent. He also directed the college's

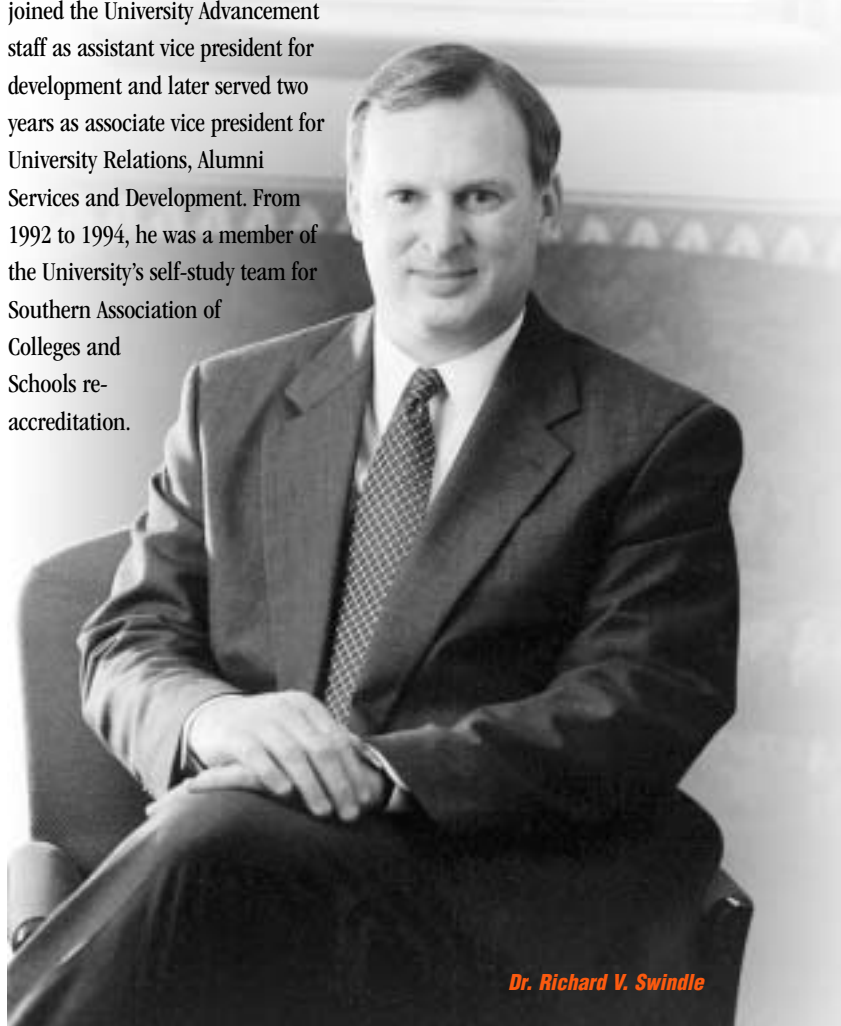
multi-year marketing initiative, which significantly increased the awareness of the college.

Swindle began his career in higher education in 1971 as director of Admissions at Samford University and, in 1973, became associate dean of Admissions.

In 1979, he joined Mercer University as director of Admissions for the University's Atlanta campus. He designed and implemented a student recruitment program that resulted in a

40 percent increase in enrollment over a 10-year period.

He became associate provost in 1987, and was responsible for all administrative services on the Atlanta campus. Two years later, he was named special assistant to the president, serving as the chief administrator for the Atlanta campus. In 1990, he joined the University Advancement staff as assistant vice president for development and later served two years as associate vice president for University Relations, Alumni Services and Development. From 1992 to 1994, he was a member of the University's self-study team for Southern Association of Colleges and Schools re-accreditation.



Dr. Richard V. Swindle

Mercer Opens Regional Academic Center in Henry County

Mercer opened the doors to its newest regional academic center in mid-August, providing opportunities for adult learners in Henry County and surrounding areas to advance their education close to home.

Conveniently located off exit 218 of I-75 in Henry County, the 30,000-square-foot facility is the result of a public/private partnership of the Henry County Development Authority, Henry County Board of Commissioners and Mercer University.

“This facility represents a unique partnership between Mercer University and Henry County,” said Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey. “We are looking forward to providing men and women throughout this area with an educational program of quality and breadth that competently prepares them both personally and professionally.”

Located at 160 Henry Parkway, adjacent to the Henry County Administration Building, the new regional academic center is designed specifically for adult learners. The



Henry County officials joined Mercer University in a ribbon cutting ceremony for Mercer's newest regional academic center in McDonough in August.

one-story building borders the Cotton Fields Golf Course and has numerous windows to bring the wooded outdoors into the classrooms. The building's entrance opens into a spacious lounge adjacent to offices of full-time faculty members and student support professionals.

“Our students are valued members of Mercer's learning community, and the building's open design is intended to encourage them to see education as their gateway to limitless possibilities,” said Dr. Thomas Kail, associate provost and dean of the College of Continuing and Professional Studies.

Other features of the Center include a computer lab, a learning lab for tutorial assistance and a digital and traditional library. One of the highlights of the facility is a model teacher education classroom, which is set up like that of an elementary school for use by teacher education students.

Designed to serve an enrollment of 1,000 students, the new state-of-the-art academic center in Henry County consolidated the students from the University's two smaller centers located in Griffin and Covington, which closed after their summer sessions. The Center draws adult learners from

Henry, Newton, Spalding, Rockdale, Clayton, Fayette, Lamar and Butts counties.

Two of the University's 10 schools and colleges offer evening and weekend programs at the Center: the College of Continuing and Professional Studies and Tift College of Education. Undergraduate degree programs include human services, criminal justice, information systems and early childhood and middle grades education, as well as the organization leadership degree-completion program. The University plans to later offer graduate programs in education and community counseling.

In addition to degree programs, the Center offers certificate and continuing education programs, including the College of Continuing and Professional Studies' Public Safety Leadership Institute. During the summer, the Center will offer its College for Kids, with popular programs such as Budding Authors and Math Wizards.

The University also has Regional Academic Centers in Douglas County and Eastman.

Students Teach Professors in New Program

From creating Web pages to designing a simulated archaeological dig, Mercer students are helping faculty members utilize technology to its fullest.

Mercer students can now teach professors through the new Student Technology Advisors (STARS) program. By assisting faculty members in bringing technology into their classes, the STARS program allows students to learn the latest media applications and use their expertise in creating valuable resources for the Mercer community.

Through the pilot program, which began in fall 2002, five students received two months of extensive training in new media, instructional technology and professional communication. After completing workshops, which included training on numerous software programs, such as Digital Storytelling, Flash, Dreamweaver, Web Development, HTML and WebCT, the STARS students teamed up with Mercer faculty to complete the technology projects.

"In the Center for Teaching and Learning, we develop programs to help students learn better and become more engaged in the [learning] process,"

said Dr. Priscilla Danheiser, director of Mercer's Center for Teaching and Learning. "For those members of the faculty who have not had a chance to experiment with interactive technology in the classroom, STARS students are able to offer them one-on-one time to learn how."

Each STAR participates in the program as a work-study student and is paired with a faculty member interested in using new media. As the students work on the projects, they also teach professors how to use computer programs and media tools.

"These students have found support, advisers, mentors and friends," said STARS program coordinator Kelly Jones. "They have gained confidence in their technical abilities and have been

"For those members of the faculty who have not had a chance to experiment with interactive technology in the classroom, STARS students are able to offer them one-on-one time to learn how."

part of a creative team while gaining invaluable experience in time and project management."

Some of the projects STARS tackled included redesigning Web sites, developing interactive quizzes through WebCT and building educational resources for digital video and digital storytelling.

"The program gives students and teachers a bridge for relating to each

other. It's a good way to gain work experience and experience in the technology field," said sophomore Jason Lo.

Last semester, the engineering major from Warner Robins, Ga., helped Tift College of Education professors Dr. Calandra Lockhart and Dr. Randy Spaid show teacher education students how to use digital video to assess their teaching skills.

"When we have prospective teachers viewing themselves in a [classroom] session, they see what they are doing that may or may not be effective," said Spaid. "Student teachers can also tape themselves teaching, then sit down with us and create a CD that they can hand to principals during an interview, documenting their experience."

STAR Clayton Kirk helped Medical School professor Dr. Ananda Weerasuriya create an online study site for first-year medical students. Students are able to "diagnose" fictional patients and receive feedback and corrections on their work.

Students studying German are benefiting from Tim Palmer's STAR work with Dr. Edward Weintraut in the Foreign Language Department of the College of Liberal Arts.

"We have set up a virtual German community, [as well as] a template for

anyone teaching a language," said Weintraut. "There is an archive of exercises available to anybody, and it allows us to teach newer material instead of always revising in class. And I can refer a student to WebCT for any problem or review area."

Palmer faced a challenge of creating new programs in a foreign language. "It was challenging to test the new Web pages without speaking any German," said the sophomore engineering major from Stone

Mountain, Ga. "But I learned a little bit and got to know the faculty better in the process."

The STARS program has been so successful that plans have begun for implementation on the University's Atlanta campus. And Jones is sure the program will continue to grow. "Our students this year learned so much and built great relationships with the faculty in a new way," she said. "I look forward to the growth and success of this program."

Pat Conroy Receives Honorary Degree

One of the South's most beloved writers is now one of the University's honorary alumni. Best-selling author Pat Conroy, below center, was presented with an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree at the 14th annual Authors Luncheon.



From left, Robert Steed, Pat Conroy, and Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey

Mercer MBA Grad Develops Mercer Village

Mercer faculty, staff, and students soon will be able to enjoy the atmosphere of a restaurant and retail center only footsteps away from campus.

Mercer Village, which includes renovation of an existing building and the creation of a new two-story building, will be situated on Coleman Avenue and Montpelier Avenue near the Greek Village. This curved retail building will be centered behind the new park and fountain plaza and will directly face Coleman Avenue, Tattnall Park and the Mercer campus. The first phase is scheduled to open in Fall 2004.

The development is the result of a partnership between Endeavor Real Estate and Mercer University. Michael W. Dahmer, who is the managing partner, is a '91 Mercer MBA graduate. He chose this location because of its proximity to the campus, the impressive local neighborhoods and the demand of

nearly 10,000 employees who work within one mile of the site.

"Mercer Village will become a wonderful public space where both the Mercer and the Macon community can interact," he said.

Phase I consists of 11,000 square feet of retail space and 5,000 square feet of second-floor office space. This includes the upgrading of the historic brick building, which will be carefully designed to complement the two new buildings behind the park plaza.



Mercer Village has received commitments from several tenants. They include Johnny's Pizza & Subs, Mocha Delites Coffee House, and the southern-styled Whistle Stop Cafe. Johnny's Pizza was voted the #1 pizza restaurant in *Atlanta Magazine* last year. Whistle Stop Cafe, an actual restaurant, was featured prominently in the movie "Fried Green Tomatoes," and continues to be a popular draw for statewide visitors.

Students are already enjoying the fountain fronts the new Mercer Village.

Mercer Purchases Baptist Center from Georgia Baptist Convention

Mercer University has purchased the Baptist Center located at 2930 Flowers Road South, previously owned by the Georgia Baptist Convention and adjacent to the University's Atlanta campus.

Officials from the University and the Convention signed papers on Aug. 21, transferring the ownership of the 25 acres and five-story facility at a purchase price of \$12 million.

As part of the agreement, the Convention will remain in the building for up to three years while the Convention's new facility is completed in Gwinnett County. The University will conduct a study on the best future usage of the facility.

"The University's Board of Trustees determined the property was an important purchase to maintain the integrity of Mercer's Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus,"

said Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey.

Mercer's 300-acre Cecil B. Day Campus in Atlanta houses six of the University's 10 schools and colleges: Southern School of Pharmacy, Stetson School of Business and Economics, Tift College of Education, McAfee School of Theology, Georgia Baptist College of Nursing and the College of Continuing and Professional Studies. Some 2,200 of Mercer's 7,300 student enrollment attend classes on the campus, where the primary academic focus is graduate and professional studies.

"We are happy that Mercer acquired the property for its future use and expansion. The sale also provides revenues to assist the Convention in securing the property and facilities for our site at Sugarloaf Parkway and Satellite Boulevard," said J. Robert

"This strategic undertaking is critically important to the future of our great university, most especially to the continued vitality and prominence of our highly successful Atlanta campus."

— Continued on page 8

Silver Named Georgia Professor of the Year

By Jenny Butkus

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching announced in November that Dr. Andrew Silver, assistant professor of English at Mercer's College of Liberal Arts, has been named the 2003 Georgia Professor of the Year. The announcement was made at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

“Dr. Silver represents the finest Mercer has to offer. He demonstrates the University’s commitment to being a teaching institution of the highest caliber,” said Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey. “All of us within the University applaud his accomplishments and his dedication to his students.”

Silver has taught at Mercer since 1998. He earned his undergraduate degree in religion at George Washington University and his doctorate in English literature at Emory University. Prior to coming to Mercer, he served as a visiting assistant professor at Emory University and a dean’s teaching fellow at Oxford College of Emory University.

Dr. Richard Fallis, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Dr. Priscilla Danheiser, associate provost and interim vice president for Student Life,

nominated Silver for the award. Fallis said he couldn’t be happier that Silver was selected for this honor. “Dr. Silver is an engaged, sympathetic and demanding teacher and mentor,” Fallis said. “He knows — and lives out — the belief that the teacher’s responsibilities do not stop at the classroom door or the campus fence.”

One example of Silver’s commitment to engaging students in meaningful learning experiences outside the classroom was his creation of the documentary play *Combustible/Burn*, performed at Mercer’s Backdoor Theatre in fall of 2001. This play was the result of an intensive project, funded by a grant from University Commons, in which four Mercer students helped him interview a total of 120 people active in the early civil rights movement in Macon. Nearly every word of the play comes directly

from 50 of the interviews and research Silver and the students conducted in Mercer’s Jack Tarver Library.

“We weaved what we learned in the interviews together to make a quilted narrative,” he said. “It was a great learning experience for the students. They were able to apply the abstract concepts we discussed in class to the concrete form of theatre. They realized the power of art upon people’s lives.”

The New Jersey native said he enjoys teaching because it enables him to be creative and also influence the way people look at the world.

“I see students come in as freshmen and watch them transform from a relatively unthinking person to a largely involved, thinking person. To serve as a guide as students consider the great questions is a great privilege,” he said.

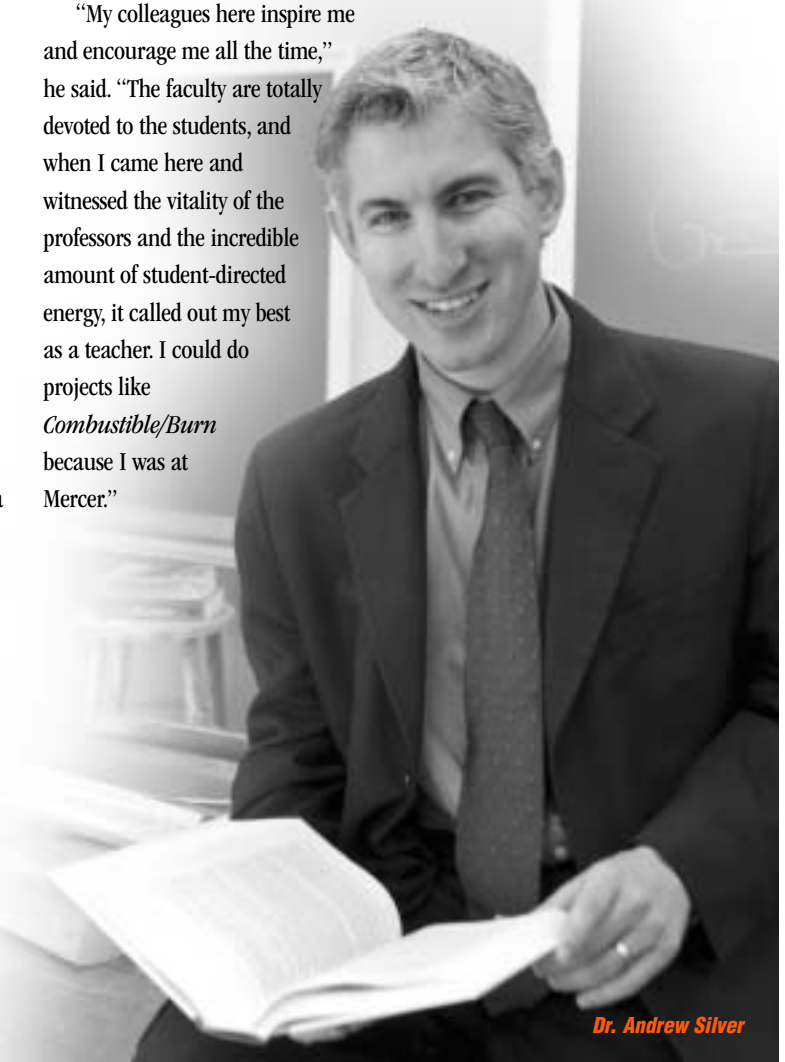
Students say Silver has impacted them tremendously.

One Mercer student said, “Andrew Silver has forever changed my life. I came to Mercer simply looking for a degree, and now I am leaving with a burning passion for activism, a love of constant learning and a better sense that the world needs me as much as I need the world.”

Silver said he thinks being named Georgia Professor of the Year is a credit to all of the faculty at Mercer.

“My colleagues here inspire me and encourage me all the time,” he said. “The faculty are totally devoted to the students, and when I came here and witnessed the vitality of the professors and the incredible amount of student-directed energy, it called out my best as a teacher. I could do projects like *Combustible/Burn* because I was at Mercer.”

Silver lives in Macon with his wife, Dr. Anya Silver, an assistant professor of English at Mercer.



Dr. Andrew Silver

Professor Shepherd Receives Prestigious Fulbright Award

By Sonal Patel

Mercer University biology professor John Shepherd has been named a Fulbright Scholar, which will take him to Argentina this summer to teach and conduct research through the support of the prestigious Argentine Fulbright Award.

Shepherd will work with Argentine scientists in Lanin National Park on a project titled “Non-Native Mammals in Araucaria Forests: Impacts and Implications for Conservation Management.” Their goal is to evaluate the

impact of exotic species on conservation areas and help develop management strategies. Shepherd will also teach ecology to graduate students at the National University of Comahue in northwestern Patagonia. His wife and fellow biologist, Rebecca Ditgen, will join him on the trip.

“I am delighted to have been selected for the Fulbright Award,” said Shepherd. “We’ll work amidst the natural beauty of Patagonia with Argentine students and scientists who share our passion for conservation.”

Shepherd received his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and joined the Mercer University faculty in 1980. He teaches botany, evolution and scientific inquiry, as well as introductory, conservation and population biology classes at Mercer.

The innovation of former U.S. Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the Fulbright program was launched in 1946. It has since expanded into seven distinct programs, allowing visiting scholars to come to America as well as sending U.S. faculty and professionals abroad.



Dr. John Shepherd will travel to Argentina this summer to conduct research made possible by the Fulbright Award.

McDuffie Concert Benefits Students

By Elizabeth Flader

Grammy-nominated violinist Robert McDuffie returned to his hometown of Macon to perform a special concert benefiting violin students at Mercer University on April 5 at the Neva Langley Fickling Hall in the McCorkle Music Building.

“Mercer is committed to giving its students a solid foundation to reach their highest aspirations — just as Robert McDuffie has fulfilled,” said Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey. “This performance is an opportunity for us to support future violinists here at Mercer.”

The concert which included works by Beethoven, Copland and Dvorák, formally recognized the *Robert McDuffie Endowed Scholarship in Violin* established by Mercer Board of Trustees member and chairman of the Executive Committee, Benjy Griffith, CLA ’77, and his wife, Teresa McEachern Griffith, CLA ’77. Proceeds from the concert were also placed in the scholarship fund that was set up to attract gifted violin students to study at Mercer.

McDuffie has appeared as a soloist with many of the major

orchestras of the world, including the New York and Los Angeles philharmonics; the Chicago, San Francisco, Montreal and Toronto symphonies; the Philadelphia, Cleveland and Minnesota orchestras; the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the North German Radio Orchestra, the Frankfurt Radio Orchestra, the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala, Santa Cecilia Orchestra of Rome and all of the major orchestras of Australia.

McDuffie’s recital and symphony performances have garnered tremendous praise throughout the

world. A commentator for NPR’s *Performance Today*, he has been profiled on NBC’s *Today*, CBS *Sunday Morning*, PBS’s *Charlie Rose*, A&E’s *Breakfast with the Arts*, and in the *New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

Playing the world-famous 1735 Guarneri del Gesù violin, the Ladenburg, McDuffie performed with pianist Albert Tiu, who has performed as soloist with the St. Petersburg, Calgary, Louisiana, Johannesburg and Philippine philharmonics, and the Hamburg, Finnish Radio, Guangzhou, Singapore and Juilliard symphonies.



Robert McDuffie, center, with Benjy and Teresa Griffith at a special concert to recognize and raise money for the Robert McDuffie Endowed Scholarship in Violin, established by the Griffiths.

Pharmacy School Admissions Getting Tough By Sonal Patel

CLA's pre-pharmacy students can bypass the anguish of waiting to learn if they have been accepted into Southern School of Pharmacy through the Early Acceptance Program.

Pharmacy is one of today's hottest professions, and Mercer University has one of the best pharmacy schools in the nation. This year, a record 1,347 applicants — the largest number of applicants to any pharmacy school in the United States — vied for the 130 seats in Mercer's Southern School of Pharmacy's first-year class.

Pre-pharmacy students in Mercer's



College of Liberal Arts have a definite advantage of getting one of those coveted seats through Southern School of Pharmacy's Early Acceptance Program (EAP) and, more importantly, succeeding in the professional program.

The EAP allows Mercer undergraduate students to ensure a spot in the School of Pharmacy after completing two years, or 60 hours, of pre-pharmacy courses on the Macon campus. Applicants must maintain a 3.0 grade-point-average in all undergraduate courses and attend special College of Liberal Arts and pre-pharmacy student events twice a year.

The College of Liberal Arts' Science Department also provides guidance to help students prepare for their pharmacy education. Dr. Jeffrey Hugdahl, associate professor of chemistry, serves as a pre-pharmacy adviser.

"My role is primarily to advise the students as to the coursework needed to fulfill the Pharmacy School require-

ments," said Hugdahl. "In addition, I work with the Southern School of Pharmacy to schedule a visit from their admissions office to talk to our students about the School and pharmacy career options."

Hugdahl also takes the pre-pharmacy students to Mercer's campus in Atlanta to tour the Pharmacy School and learn more about the programs. In addition to the doctor of pharmacy degree program, the Pharmacy School offers the University's only doctor of philosophy degree and the doctor of pharmacy /doctor of philosophy degree. The School is also a center for research, especially in the area of drug delivery.

"With the national shortage of pharmacists, applicant pools at all pharmacy schools are growing," said Dr. Jim Bartling, associate dean of student affairs and admissions for the Southern School of Pharmacy. "Competition for admission is getting stiffer everywhere, so this makes Mercer's EAP more attractive than ever."

Once in the pharmacy program, Mercer College of Liberal Arts students also have a better rate of success. The

grade point average of current students and graduates that entered the School of Pharmacy from the Macon campus is higher than

that of all other students.

More than 100 students have gone to Atlanta from Macon to pursue the doctor of pharmacy degree.

"Since the inception of the EAP program, every EAP student entering the Southern School of Pharmacy has either graduated or is still enrolled," said Hugdahl.

According to Hugdahl, students also have an easier time adjusting to the rigorous curriculum at the School of Pharmacy. Mercer's strong foundation of science courses in Macon also give College of Liberal Arts students a definite edge on success.

"I think [the students' success] is a testament to the preparation that the students receive here on the Macon campus," Hugdahl said. "It's



something I attribute to both our teaching and the students' academic maturation."

Currently, 10 percent of Pharmacy School students are Mercer graduates or former College of Liberal Arts students. The success of College of Liberal Arts students in the School of Pharmacy only continues to grow through the partnership between both Mercer schools.

"The College of Liberal Arts continues to be Southern School of Pharmacy's strongest feeder school, in terms of both numbers and quality of students," said Bartling. "My expectation is that one day soon, the Southern School of Pharmacy's percentage of students from the College of Liberal Arts will double."

Hall Named for Neva Langley Fickling By Elizabeth Flader

After an evening of music from the "Piano Mania" concert, featuring Neva Langley Fickling, Edward Eikner, Jean Roberts, John Roberts and Joan Godsey, Mercer University dedicated the McCorkle Music Building recital hall in Fickling's honor, naming it the Neva Langley Fickling Hall on March 29.

"It is most appropriate that the hall where Mercer's music students practice and perform be named for someone who has dedicated her life to the passion, practice and performance of music and to the performing arts in Central Georgia," said Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey.

Fickling began playing the piano when she was 7 years old. Her talent as a pianist helped her win the coveted title of Miss America in 1953. The only Miss Georgia to wear the Miss America crown, she is also the only contestant to win all three preliminary contests in the national pageant.

A graduate of Wesleyan College, Fickling holds an honorary doctoral degree in Fine Arts from her alma mater. She is the recipient of the prestigious Lady Bird Johnson Award and the Woman of the Year Award from the Keep America Beautiful Commission.

A longtime friend of the performing arts in Georgia, Fickling has shared both her musical talent and her leadership with organizations and events. Among her numerous activities, she has served on the boards of The Gina Bachauer Piano Competition, the Macon Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, The Georgia Council of the Arts and the Park City Chamber Music Society, and has been president of the Morning Music Club. She is also the founder of the Georgia Women of Achievement, an annual award given to women of outstanding achievement in Georgia.

A wife and a mother of four grown children, Fickling resumed her public performances in 1989, with a series of recitals in Georgia, North Carolina,

Utah, Florida and Italy. She has performed as a guest soloist with the Macon, Utah, and Benevento, Italy, symphony orchestras.

The exquisitely appointed 200-seat Neva Langley Fickling Hall is the crown jewel of the new Allan and Rosemary McCorkle Music Building and the University's music program. Considered one of the best concert halls in the state, the intimate auditorium offers state-of-the-art acoustics and a superb performance space designed to support the highest caliber of musical events, including recitals, operas, choral and vocal presentations, instrumental works and jazz ensembles. Among its outstanding features are a Richards, Fowkes & Co. pipe organ and professional recording and multimedia equipment.



Joan S. Godsey, left, joined Neva Langley Fickling for "Piano Mania," featuring Neva Langley Fickling & Friends, on March 29.

Awards Presented during Mercer Luncheon at the 2003 Georgia Baptist Convention

At the annual GBC Mercer Luncheon, held at the Iron Works in Columbus, four distinguished supporters of the University were honored.



The Rev. Jimmy Elder was presented the Louis D. Newton Award by the Honorable Doug Pullen for service to Mercer University.

The Rev. Ron Bradley was presented the James P. Wesberry Award by Jim Bruner for service to the denomination.



L. Leneal Fortner was presented the Monroe F. Swilley Award for Christian Stewardship by Tom Black and his wife, Tamlin B. Fortner, was presented the Walter L. Moore Humanitarian Award.

Mercer ROTC Cadet Climbing Military Ranks

By Jenny Butkus

Tallying 50 cadets, Mercer University's Army ROTC Program is small compared with other university ROTC units, which often have as many as 200 cadets. But size isn't everything. Mercer ROTC students are making big entrances into the military world.

A Mercer ROTC cadet was recently sought out to participate in one of the U.S. Army's highly selective programs. And he says it's the combination of the specialized attention he's garnered by being a part of Mercer's small, but elite ROTC program, coupled with the diversified education he's received at Mercer that led him to this opportunity.

Isaiah Davis, who was commissioned as a second lieutenant when he graduated from Mercer this past May, was one of only a handful of ROTC

students in the nation selected to go directly into the U.S. Army Finance Corps out of college.

The Army Finance Corps is an extremely selective military branch. Only 11 ROTC graduates in the country were selected last year to go directly into this branch field after college.

The Finance Corps performs all Army finance and accounting functions. And the Corps boasts the highest GPA of all of the branches.

For Davis, a 22-year-old finance major from Macon, the Finance Corps seemed like the perfect fit. "I'm not completely sure I want to serve in the military for my entire career. So I wanted to get some skills that would be transferable in the civilian world."

As a part of his ROTC scholarship, Davis is required to serve eight years in the military — four years of active duty and four years in the Army Reserve or the Army National Guard.

The summer before his senior year Davis was asked to fill out paperwork listing his top three choices of branches he'd like to enter after college. He made sure the Finance Corps was at the top of the list. With a 3.56 GPA, Isaiah knew he was qualified to enter the branch. But he didn't set his hopes too high. "I knew it was a really selective field."

The Mercer senior was elated to learn he got his #1 pick. And not only did he get his top choice, he also was selected to enter the Finance Corps right away. Often, ROTC cadets are accepted to the Finance Corps, but they then are required to do two years of work in a separate field before they actually serve in the Finance Corps.

"For a brand new second lieutenant to be picked up right out of

college is really a testament to the quality of his education and leadership ability," said Allan Pitchford, assistant director of admissions, Army ROTC liaison at Mercer and a 24-year veteran of the United States Army.

Davis credits Mercer for his success. He said the education he received at Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics taught him

to "think outside of the box" and "read between the lines," and that will equip him to serve as a quality military leader.



Mercer ROTC graduate, Isaiah Davis

Mercer Business Students Encounter Antiglobal Protests

By Judith Lunsford

Boarded windows, graffiti and demonstrators gave Mercer University students an unexpected first-hand look at the antiglobalization movement. Though not intentionally planned, a group of business

students from the University arrived in Geneva, Switzerland, at the same time as thousands of protestors, in the days leading up to the G8 summit.

"Slogans like 'Feu aux banques' ['Set fire to the banks'], 'Bush se tete sur un plateau' ['Bush's head on a platter'] and 'Sma\$h G8' are not a conventional part of a business school's international curriculum," explained Dr. F. Frank Ghannadian, associate dean of Mercer's Stetson School of Business & Economics in Atlanta, who accompanied the students on the trip. "But seeing the passion and tactics of antiglobalization forces brought to life the controversy surrounding international trade to students who had only encountered it in media reports and classroom discussions before the trip."

The Geneva experience was part of a studies-abroad experience for 23 Mercer University business students in Paris and Geneva. The encounter with antiglobalization protesters was not the first unexpected encounter with the unpredictable dynamics of the international environment for 13 members of the group who are



Twenty-three Mercer students travelled to Paris and Geneva to learn about International trade.

students in Mercer's Executive Master of Business Administration program. Their annual studies-abroad experience had originally been scheduled for Hong Kong and China, and reservations were to have been finalized within days of the announcement of the outbreak of SARS in that region.

The students met with executives from France's Coca-Cola headquarters and Saint-Gobain (the world's largest glass manufacturer) in France. In Switzerland, they visited the International Red

Cross Committee, the World Intellectual Property Rights Organization and the Swiss Bankers Association.

The student group undertaking the trip included managers from Bell South, Foote, Center for Disease Control, Cone & Belding, GSB Inc., Home Depot, Hunkeler Corporation, Level 3 Communications, SAFECO Insurance Company and Trucking Nation. Mercer's Executive MBA program has an international focus, and the studies-abroad trip is a culmination of months of training in international management.

... seeing the passion and tactics of antiglobalization forces brought to life the controversy surrounding international trade ...

Executive Forum Features Grace

By Jenny Butkus

The Executive Forum 2003 fall lecture series was a tremendous success, featuring some of the most renowned speakers yet. The spring speakers promise to be just as intriguing with one of Mercer's most respected alumni presenting.

Jean Chatzky, financial editor for NBC's *Today*, editor-at-large for *Money* magazine, a regular columnist for *Time* magazine and *USA Weekend*, kicked off the season in September with a presentation on smart financial habits. Ari Fleischer, former White House press secretary, provided an insiders' look into the White House with a presentation in October. And, William Freund, chief economist emeritus for the New York Stock Exchange, gave members insight on the economy in November.

President and CEO of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce George Israel will be the first speaker of the spring, with presentations on the Macon and Atlanta campuses on Feb. 24. BellSouth President of Georgia Operations Phil Jacobs will give a presentation on both campuses on March 23. And Court TV Anchor and *Larry King Live* guest host Nancy Grace, a graduate of Mercer's Walter F. George School of Law, will

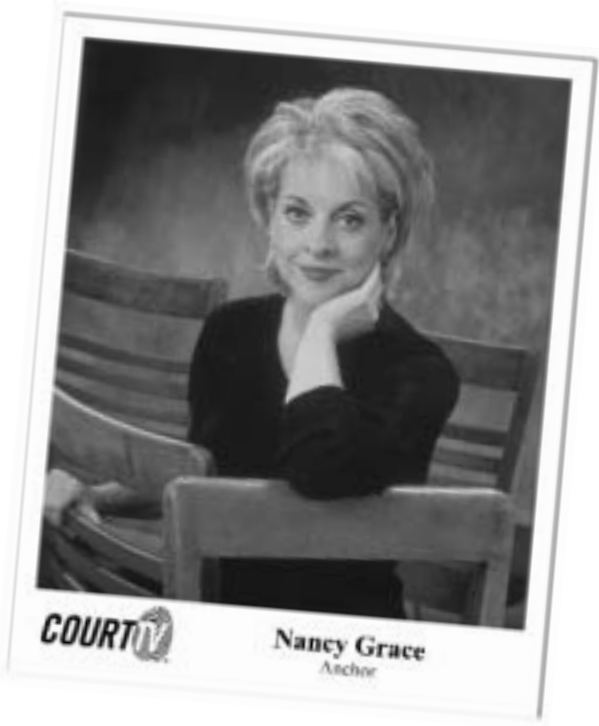
close the season with a presentation on both campuses on April 26.

Israel and Grace will give breakfast presentations on the Macon campus at 7:30 a.m. and lunch presentations on the Atlanta campus at noon. Jacobs will give a breakfast presentation on the Atlanta campus at 7:30 a.m. and a lunch presentation on the Macon campus at noon.

The Executive Forum is a business outreach program of the Eugene W.

Stetson School of Business and Economics and the Office of University Advancement. This elite, members-only program provides business professionals an opportunity to receive cutting-edge information on current business trends and network at the same time.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of The Executive Forum can call the Office of University Advancement at (478) 301-2724 or (800) 837-2911, ext. 2724.



Students Benefit from Internship Program By Jenny Butkus

From devising a marketing plan for a jazz series at their hometown amphitheater to reporting on national sports stories to working hand-in-hand with corporate lawyers, Mercer business students are getting great work experience before they graduate.

Students in the innovative Managed Academic Path to Success (MAPS) undergraduate curriculum at Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics are required to fulfill an experiential component. The most popular way students meet this requirement is through an internship.

Beginning in their sophomore year, students work closely with Mary Roberts, assistant director of Career Services at Mercer, to create a résumé and pinpoint internship opportunities in their fields of choice. Most students complete the 90-hour internships their junior or senior year of study. Roberts said the internships are a crucial part of the students' education.

"Employers are looking more and more for internships on résumés because they go much deeper than part-time jobs," she said. "By interning with these companies, students get to participate in meetings and get a real

feel for the business." Mercer senior Eileen Pascual of Clarkston worked as a production intern at Cox Media in Macon fall semester. She assisted producers and videographers in the Cox studio and

"Employers are looking more and more for internships on résumés because they go much deeper than part-time jobs. By interning with these companies, students get to participate in meetings and get a real feel for the business."

learned about the day-to-day operations of a television business. The highlight of her internship was writing and producing her own commercial for Mercer's Baptist Student Union Dinner Theater.

"It was a very hands-on learning experience," Pascual said of her work with Cox. "I believe the experience I have gained from this internship will give me a better chance of landing a job after I graduate."

Not only are internships great ways for students to gain experience in their chosen career field, but they are also

great opportunities for students to evaluate whether the career they're working toward is really the best fit for them.

"Internships help students see what they can and cannot do, what they do and do not enjoy," Roberts said. "Some students realize after their internships that they want to change their focus. It's great they're learning this while they're still in school, rather than when they're 35 or 40."

Senior Kristin Fields of Carrollton thought she wanted to become a personal finance planner prior to her internship. But two weeks into her internship, she was certain it was not the right fit for her. She worked with

her supervisor and adviser to switch to another department within Merrill Lynch, and she happily completed her internship. She's now working with her adviser to find a new focus and plans to do a second internship at a bank in the spring.

"I'm grateful I learned personal finance planning wasn't for me when I did. Now I have time to work toward a new goal before I graduate," she said.

In conjunction with the internship, students take a course called MAPS 305. The course is designed to allow students to reflect on their internship

experience while developing their understanding of the industry.

Dr. Andrew Deile, associate professor of management, taught the fall MAPS 305 course. In this course, he assigned various *Wall Street Journal* readings to the students, and he provided time for the students to discuss what was happening in the workplace.

Students received a grade based on two evaluations given by their employer. He said he's seen great results from the internship program.

"In addition to providing students with work experience, these internships allow them to begin networking before they graduate," Deile said.

He recently learned that one of his former students who had interned with

American Cancer Society is now working for them full time.

Tom Abbott, a senior MAPS student from London, interned in the fall with *WGCL-TV*, the Atlanta CBS affiliate. He said he knows he's a step ahead of most seniors with this internship under his belt.

"An internship is invaluable in the field of broadcasting. I have met some influential people who have been very willing to offer guidance and advice," he said. "This internship will without a doubt aid my chances of finding work post-Mercer."

Companies interested in developing an internship opportunity with Mercer should contact Mary Roberts at (478) 301-2157.



Senior business student **Eileen Pascual** (left) works on a graphic for a commercial with **Heather McCroan**, production manager at Cox Media in Macon.

"Give More, Get More" – Mercer's Gift Annuity Program By John P. Cole

Give more, get more." Give more to Mercer, get more income in return. By creating a gift annuity with Mercer University, you can increase the rate of return on your cash, stock, bond or other investments while making an unrestricted or designated gift.

For example, if you are 65 years old, your gift annuity can boost your rate of return to 6%, fixed, guaranteed for life. If you are 75, the rate goes up to 7.1%. If you are only 50 years old, the guaranteed, fixed rate is still relatively high at 5.3%.*

Beyond the increase in rate of return, your gift annuity can cut your taxes. A portion of the gift annuity's pay-out is treated as tax-free, giving you an increase in net income.**

How can a Mercer gift annuity provide more income than your other investments? A gift annuity is a simple agreement between you and the University by which you make a gift and Mercer in turn pays you guaranteed income for life. You give the princi-

pal to Mercer and keep the guaranteed income for yourself.

The gift you make takes advantage of Mercer's long-term prospects to boost your income now. The tax laws assume that charities will "outlive" their donors and can afford to take a longer look at return on principal. Your return is backed by the full measure of Mercer University's assets while your gift

By creating a gift annuity with Mercer University, you can increase the rate of return on your cash, stock, bond or other investments while making an unrestricted or designated gift.

ultimately adds to those assets.

What do you receive for establishing a Mercer gift annuity? You get:

- ✓ A fixed rate of return
- ✓ Guaranteed income for life
- ✓ A tax deduction for a portion of the principal gift
- ✓ Tax-free return on a portion of the annual income
- ✓ Capital-gains tax reduction on gifts of appreciated securities
- ✓ Competitive interest rates
- ✓ The satisfaction of making a gift

that will benefit Mercer for generations to come

If you are younger, you can choose a deferred gift annuity to lock in a much higher rate of return for retirement. For example, if you are 45 and defer the annuity to age 65, your rate of return would be 15.7%. Thus a \$10,000 gift now would provide you with \$1,570 in annual income for life, starting at

age 65 (and you would still receive a tax deduction now of \$3,672).*

In addition, unlike traditional retirement accounts, there is no limit on how much you can contribute to a gift annuity.

If you have certificates of deposit ("CD's") that are about to mature; if you have appreciated stock generating little return; if you want to increase your retirement income; if you want to make a difference at Mercer University, then consider a Mercer gift annuity.

Give more, get more. Let us help you establish a gift annuity right away. It is a simple way to plan for the future — yours and Mercer's.



Mercer is pleased to announce that **John P. Cole** has joined our planned-giving team. He and Claude Smith are working together to serve our alumni and friends. Please contact John at (478) 301-2570 or cole_jp@mercer.edu.

*Calculations based on December 2003 rates set by the Internal Revenue Service and the American Council on Gift Annuities. Rates vary based on the age of the gift annuitant(s). The donor can designate one or two annuitants, including him- or herself.

**Tax-free treatment of income is based on Internal Revenue Service life-expectancy tables and discount rates and varies based on the age of the gift annuitant(s).

Note: These calculations are for illustration only and should not be considered legal, accounting or other professional advice. Benefits may vary depending on the timing of the gift.

Mercer Alumni Online to Launch Soon

The Mercer Alumni Association has announced the launching of Mercer Alumni Online. It is free and accessible only by Mercer alumni from the University's home page via a secure personal password and user ID. Users do not have to be computer experts — it is easy to use and will provide fast communication of a variety of features.

ONLINE DIRECTORY
A password-protected directory that one can update and use to search for alumni.

MESSAGE BOARDS
Read and post notes to classmates.

PERMANENT E-MAIL FORWARDING ADDRESS
A "lifetime" e-mail address that will automatically forward e-mail messages to any existing e-mail account.

CLASS NOTES
Post instant updates about one's family, career and interests.

BROADCAST E-MAIL
This feature informs about alumni events in communities and on campus.

POLLS AND SURVEYS
Polls and surveys give the Alumni Office a process for asking the opinion of alumni.

Mercer has contracted with Harris Internet Services to begin work with a completion date of summer 2004. Mercer will also make available for purchase a revised hard-back alumni directory as in the past. Harris will begin to contact alumni soon to update personal information and offer an opt-out for those who do not want to participate.

Teaching Methods Inspire Children to Read

By Sonal Patel

With literacy being the cornerstone of a child's education, students and teachers in Mercer University's Tift College of Education are learning how to creatively bring the excitement of reading to the kids in their classrooms.

Last spring in Dr. Mary Willingham's Children's Literature class, graduate education students explored the various ways to teach an appreciation for the written word to young students. Willingham imparted to her students the urgency of making literature an important part of a child's life so reading can become a tool for lifelong learning.

"My basic objectives for this class were to expose our teachers to the vast body of children's literature," said Willingham, a Mercer professor for 22 years. "I strived to help them create exciting questions and activities that will engender a love of reading in their students and to increase their own love of reading and knowledge of literature."

The course culminated in a Children's Book and Storytelling Festival, with each student directed to bring at least one child to the program. The Festival was one of Willingham's ideas for generating interest in reading among children, while allowing her students to showcase what they had learned over the semester.

Wynetta Scott-Simmons of Fayetteville found that children who enjoy the stories or poetry they performed are more likely to pick up a book and try to find more. "The Festival presented different types of literature in

order to broaden the children's exposure to books and increase their desire to read," said the Fayetteville educator, who recently completed her specialist in education degree at Mercer.

The third grade teacher at Peeples Elementary School in Atlanta has used many of Willingham's ideas with her own students. "In my classroom, reading aloud has been very

effective as my students have become interested in different types of books or in books they thought they wouldn't like. Now, they are more open to all kinds of stories and read the more challenging books that they wouldn't have picked up before," said Scott-Simmons, who also earned her master's degree in education at Mercer's Tift College of Education in Atlanta.

One of Willingham's tips for getting kids to read is to create a connection between the child and a book. Semia Hutchings of Decatur, who is pursuing her certificate in teacher education, uses this technique in her classroom.

"A good idea is to see what kind of child you are trying to get excited about reading," said Hutchings, a 3rd grade teacher at Fountain Elementary School. "If the child is interested in sports, I find a book about sports to get things started. The key is to find out what the kids like and keep a big, diverse class library in which every student can find

a book that relates to him or her." Teachers can also help students by continuously researching new books to share with their students. Graduate education student Tish Brownlee of Powder Springs reads different types of children's literature on her own so she can choose the best material for her students.

"We've learned in class to read an extra book each week," said Brownlee, who teaches in the Cobb County School System. "Since I work in kindergarten, reading all types of children's books has helped me get into books I wouldn't have always read. Teachers doing this can share what they've read or used in their classrooms to help [teachers and parents] pick the right material for their kids."

While reading continues to be a child's foundation for education, finding unique and active ways to engage a classroom remains important. Through ideas like acting out poems and stories, building a diverse classroom library, finding connections between students and books, and reading regularly to be able to



Students (from left) **Tish Brownlee** and **Wynetta Scott-Simmons**, Professor **Mary Willingham**, and student **Semia Hutchings** prepare for the annual Children's Book and Storytelling Festival held at the Tift College of Education on Mercer's Atlanta Campus.

recommend material to students, teachers in Willingham's class have experienced success.

"I have taken these ideas immediately from this class to my

third-graders," said Scott-Simmons. "Anyone can do these things to encourage kids to read, and though some of it may be hard work, it's work that you don't mind doing."

Graduate Program Focuses on Diversity

By Sonal Patel

Mercer offers new program in Macon and Eastman.

Educators can now learn how to diversify their teaching methods and better communicate with today's various types of students.

Through the innovative Holistic Educator graduate program in Mercer University's Tift College of Education, teachers, health educators and family specialists all have the opportunity to maximize their skills by developing themselves on both personal and professional levels.

Classes are currently being offered on Mercer's main campus in Macon and regional academic center in

Eastman. "The Holistic Educator provides a pathway for professionals seeking advanced knowledge and growth," said Associate Professor Margaret Morris. "Teachers today, whether they be certified public school teachers or health educators, need the skills to differentiate instruction, effectively manage diversity among students and understand best practices in teaching pedagogy."

The new program allows professionals to earn a master's degree in education specialized to equip educators with the tools they need for working with students of all backgrounds and abilities. By offering a unique development program geared

toward those working with children or families, candidates may come from a wide range of careers and will learn to address the needs within their own professions.

The cornerstone of the program is an emphasis on teachers learning skills of empowerment and the ability to build partnerships. By creating educators that understand themselves, and also understand their students, Mercer's program aims to produce professionals who can teach in the most effective method to reach every type of student.

With the Holistic Educator program having completed its first semester on Mercer's main campus in Macon and its regional academic center in Eastman, interest continues to grow. New candidates may begin the program this fall and students in the program will take two courses for each of four, 16-week semesters.

"The Holistic Educator recognizes the importance of schools or related agencies meeting the educational, psychological and social needs of students and families in a well-planned holistic manner," said Morris. "It's not just teachers that benefit from this advanced degree, it's individuals in various professional settings."



Interest continues to grow surrounding Mercer's newest education program, the Holistic Educator. Classes are being offered at Mercer's main campus and Eastman's regional academic center.

Mercer Purchases Baptist Center

— Continued from page 3

White, executive director, Georgia Baptist Convention.

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners recently approved a rezoning of the Sugarloaf Parkway property, clearing the way for the Convention's project to begin in early 2004. "This will allow the Convention to more effectively serve the needs of our churches in a state-of-the-art facility well into the 21st Century," said White.

The 25 acres on which the Baptist Center stands were originally part of the Atlanta Baptist College campus, and were sold to the Convention prior to the college's merger with Mercer in the 1970s. The new purchase gives the University ownership of all of the prop-

erty inside the circle formed by Mercer University Drive and Flowers Road South.

"This strategic undertaking is critically important to the future of our great University,

most especially to the continued vitality and prominence of our highly successful Atlanta campus," said James A. Bishop, chairman, Mercer University Board of Trustees.

'This will allow the Convention to more effectively serve the needs of our churches in a state-of-the-art facility well into the 21st Century.'

Martray Appointed Education Dean at Mercer

By Judith Lunsford

Carl R. Martray, Ph.D., began serving as dean of Tift College of Education in July. “Mercer is deeply committed to educating men and women who can meet the challenges of the highly-complex, vitally-important role of

providing instruction and leadership to young people,” said Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey. “Dr. Martray brings outstanding academic leadership and credentials to this position. Our students and our programs will greatly benefit from having him here at Tift

College of Education.” With more than 1,400 students in undergraduate and graduate studies, Mercer University’s Tift College of Education prepares more teachers than any other private institution in Georgia. The College offers programs on Mercer’s Macon and Atlanta campuses as well as at the University’s three regional academic centers in Douglas County, Henry County and Eastman.

Martray previously served as dean of the College of Education and Psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), a position he held since 1998. Prior to joining USM, he spent 27 years at Western Kentucky University, where he served his last eight years as dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. Both institutions are the largest preparer of professional educators in their respective states.

With a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from Fairmont State College, West Virginia, Martray holds a master’s degree and a doctorate

in educational psychology from the University of Alabama. He began his career as principal and teacher at Colfax Elementary School in Marion County Schools, Fairmont, W.Va. During his studies at the University of Alabama from 1969 to 1971, he served as instructor of Educational Psychology and Research Design at the University as well as program evaluator for the Title IV programs in Central and Northwest

Joint Governmental Relations Committee, where he helped influence national policy pertaining to teacher education.

A member of the editorial board of *Psychology, A Journal of Human Behavior* for more than 10 years, he served seven years on the editorial board of *Journal of Human Behavior and Learning* and three years as consulting editor for *People and Education: The Human Side of Schools*.

He is a frequent presenter and panelist at educational conferences and the author of numerous publications and professional journals.

Additionally, he has been a staff development consultant to teachers and administrators in more than 20 public and private school systems.

He and his wife, Donna, who is a board certified operating room nurse, have two daughters: Lauri Turner of Bowling Green, Ky., and Nicole Talley of Birmingham, Ala. They also have a three-year-old grandson, Cole Turner.

‘Dr. Martray brings outstanding academic leadership and credentials to this position. Our students and our programs will greatly benefit from having him here at Tift College of Education.’

Alabama. He was also an instructor in the Psychology Department at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

As a charter member of the Kentucky Educational Professional Standards Board, Martray was involved in setting policy and determining direction for the education profession in Kentucky. He also served two terms on the American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE)



Dean of Education
Dr. Carl R. Martray

PT3 Grant Provides Cutting-Edge Technology Training

By Jenny Butkus

Graduates of Mercer’s Tift College of Education are now more prepared than ever to meet the needs of tomorrow’s classrooms.

All Mercer education students have the opportunity to receive intensive training on the best practices for integrating technology into the classroom. After completing this technology-infused teacher-preparation program, students receive InTech certification, a state-approved certification that very few universities offer.

Mercer first offered the InTech program to students two years ago using a grant received from the U.S. Department of Education.

The grant was a part of government’s “Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers to Use Technology” (PT3) program.

The program was a tremendous success. While participating in InTech training was optional, only three students didn’t take advantage of the technology training last year, said Dr. Penny Elkins, co-director of the University’s PT3 project and an associate professor in Mercer’s Tift College of Education.

Obtaining InTech certification makes Mercer graduates more

marketable, said Dr. Bruce Sliger, an associate professor of education in the College and co-director of the project.

Elkins agreed. Federal law requires all teachers to have technology certification by 2006, so many school systems are scrambling to find money in their budgets to train their teachers.

“Principals have been told they have to spend money to train their teachers. So, not only does Mercer

‘Technology is growing by leaps and bounds and will play a big part in the future of my students. InTech made me more aware of the many possibilities of integrating technology in the classroom.’

have phenomenal graduates, but also fully trained graduates. Our students have first-hand experience on how to integrate technology into the classroom, how to teach with technology and how to improve test scores,” Elkins said.

The program also benefits Mercer faculty. Ninety percent of Tift College of Education faculty have received InTech training. And graduate education students are given the option of receiving InTech training at Mercer as well.

The initial grant funding for the InTech program ended at the end of last academic year. But, Mercer is able to continue this innovative technology training program this year because Tift College of Education received another PT3 grant in June. This \$260,000 grant is allowing the University to continue to train professors and students on the latest in educational software programs.

The College of Education is also rewriting its curriculum to require all undergraduate education students to receive this important training.

Yvonne Hudgins, who graduated from Mercer with a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education in May, said she’s grateful she was able to receive InTech certification while at Mercer.

“Technology is growing by leaps and bounds and will play a big part in the future of my students. InTech made me more aware of the many possibilities of integrating technology in the classroom,” she said. “I have found that technology is a great motivator for students. Using technology is an enjoyable way for students to learn.”

Alumni Student Recruitment Referral Form

If you know an outstanding prospective student, please complete and mail this form to Mercer’s Office of University Admissions, 1400 Coleman Ave., Macon, GA 31207. You may also call in your submission at (800) 840-8577 or e-mail us at admissions@mercer.edu.

Your Name _____

Student Name _____

Hometown _____

High School _____

Year of graduation _____ SAT/ACT _____

GPA _____

Activities _____

Home telephone number _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____





MERCER SPECIAL EVENTS

HALF CENTURY CLUB

Reception and Reunion Dinner
October 3, 2003



Presidents of Half Century Club (Above):
Gladys Holder Giddens, CLA '37 (1992 & 1997);
Orbin D. Howell, CLA '42 (1994 & 1995);
George B. Culpepper, III, LAW '43 (1998);
C. Cloud Morgan, Sr., CLA '41, LAW '48 (2000);
Dan D. Dunwody, Jr., CLA '49 (2001);
Preston C. Williams, Jr., CLA '47 (2002);
Sarah Anne Black, CLA '51 (2003);
Bob G. Dollar, CLA '53 (2004)

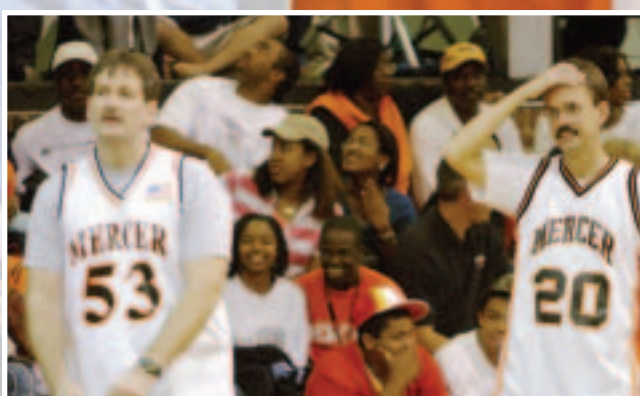
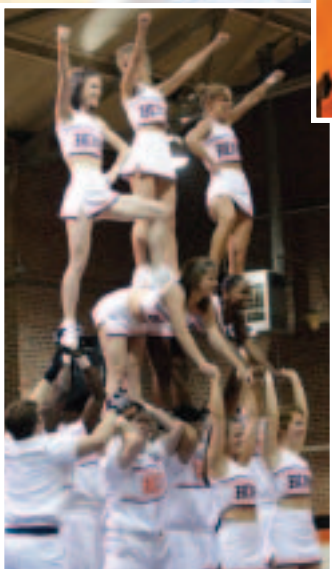
The Gabbling Godseys (pictured left) team
against the Jabbering Jesses in a fun trivia
quiz. L-R: *Annie Mays Larmore, CLA '31; C.*
Cloud Morgan, Preston C. Williams, Bobby
Wilder, EDU '52, Gladys Giddens.

(Right) *Dr. Bill Shirley, CLA '43, and wife,*
Bess, with Mercer's "old" car.



MERCER MADNESS

Mercer Madness, held in October coinciding with the first day of practice for the men's and women's basketball teams, featured a variety of activities for the last time in Porter Gym. Among the favorites were: introductions of the men's and women's teams, routines by the Mercer cheerleaders, faculty and staff basketball game and slam dunk contest (where the judges could not always agree on scores).



COMMENCEMENT

MERCER UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT
2003

Wayne E. Ward, retired senior professor of Christian Theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was featured speaker at the McAfee School of Theology commencement.



Wyche Fowler Jr., chairman of the board of the Middle East Institute, was featured speaker at the Macon commencement. Fowler, right, is pictured with Mercer University President **R. Kirby Godsey**.



Dr. Larry McSwain, senior fellow of Mercer University Commons, was featured speaker at the Tift College of Education, Division of Extended Education and College of Continuing and Professional Studies Atlanta Commencement.



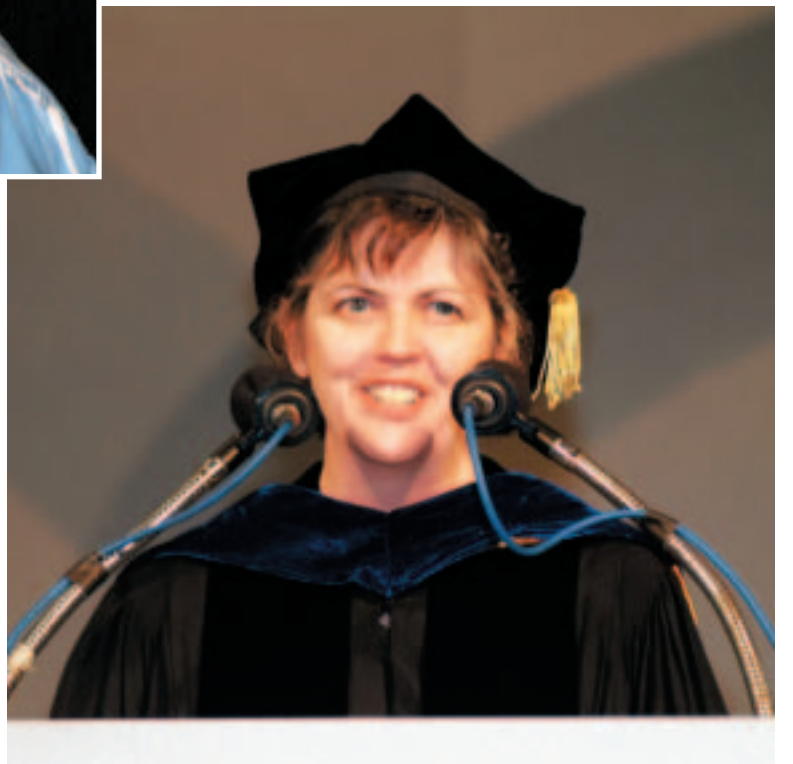
Michael L. Starr, executive vice president of Wachovia Bank, gave the commencement address at the Eugene W. Stetson School of Business and Economics Atlanta graduation ceremony.



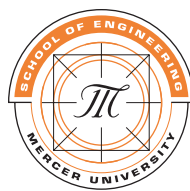
(Above) **Dr. Nancy W. Dickey**, president and vice chancellor for health affairs at The Texas A&M System Health Science Center and past president of the American Medical Association, gave the commencement address for the School of Medicine.



U.S. Rep. **Nathan Deal**, A.B. '64, J.D. '66, gave the commencement address at the Walter F. George School of Law graduation ceremony.



(Right) **Dr. Karen Jean Minyard**, executive director for the Georgia Health Policy Center, delivered the commencement address for the Georgia Baptist College of Nursing.



MU Engineering Student Earns Triple Honors

By Jenny Butkus

It began in January 2003.

Mercer biomedical engineering student Danielle Drury of Richmond Hill, Ga., was named Georgia Engineering Student of the Year by the Georgia Engineering Foundation.

"I was really excited and surprised by that," said Drury, who was nominated for the honor by Engineering Dean Dayne Aldridge.

But, for the 22-year-old, this was just the beginning of a long list of recognitions she would receive her last semester at Mercer.

While knee-deep in her senior design project, Drury learned she was one of some 30 students in the country to receive a biomedical engineering graduate fellowship from the Whitaker Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to improving human health through the support of biomedical engineering. With an estimated value of \$111,000, the fellowship pays for Drury's tuition in the biomedical engineering graduate program of her choice as well as an annual stipend for living expenses.

Drury was the first Mercer graduate to receive a Whitaker Fellowship.

Dr. Edward O'Brien, chair of the Biomedical Engineering Department, said he wasn't surprised that Drury received the Fellowship. "In terms of scholastic achievement, she has a perfect 4.0 GPA. In my classes she didn't just get an A, but the highest A," O'Brien said.

She maintained this perfect academic record while remaining active in a laundry list of groups outside the classroom.

Drury played in Mercer's Flute Choir, was a member of the Karate Club, volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, served as a supplemental instruction leader and was on the University Special Events Team. And in clubs, she was not only a member, but also a leader. Drury served as the treasurer of the Biomedical Engineering Club, the vice president of Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society, the treasur-

er of the Society of Women Engineers and the student vice president of Phi Kappa Phi honor society.

Drury enjoyed being active in activities outside of the classroom, particularly with the Flute Choir.

She also served as a supplemental instructor for chemistry and calculus students, meeting with the students three times a week to review what they were working on in their classes.

"It's great when you know you've helped someone out," she said.

Helping people out is why she has decided to become a biomedical engineer. Drury wants to go into tissue engineering to learn how to grow a tissue that will replicate a specific tissue of the human body.

She took this career direction as a result of what a close friend endured when he had an artificial heart valve implanted as a child. Because the valve was made of artificial material, he outgrew it every few years. This has meant a lot of expensive and dangerous surgery.

If biomedical engineers were able to engineer tissues that could be

shaped into a heart valve, then the tissue would just grow with the rest of the organs, she said, meaning no more surgery.

Drury got a taste of this fascinating field during her internship at Georgia Tech/Emory Center for the Engineering of Living Tissues in summer 2002. She is currently using the Whitaker Fellowship to attend Georgia Tech, where she is

working toward earning a doctorate in biomedical engineering.

She was also awarded a fellowship from the engineering honor society, Tau Beta Pi. While she did not use the funds because Whitaker does not allow its Fellowship recipients to accept money from another source, she does get to keep the title.

Her commitment to excellence was also recognized by the University. Drury received the Dean's Choice Award. At commencement, she received one of the highest honors given by Mercer University — the Louie D. Newton General Excellence Medal, which is based on a combination of academic scholarship and outstanding personal

qualities.

Drury said this makes those "all-nighters" all worthwhile, adding that she couldn't have gotten this far without the support of the biomedical engineering faculty. She chose Mercer because she liked the small class sizes, but the professors' helpfulness has surpassed her expectations.

"The professors were incredibly supportive," said Drury, who has made trips back to Macon since graduation to visit her favorite professors. "They always had time to talk with me. And every time I got an award, I would go into the BME [biomedical engineering] suite and tell everybody. They always seemed just as excited as I was."



Danielle Drury, BSE 03, works on a project in one of the Mercer engineering labs.

Mercer & RAFB Celebrate Partnership

By Jenny Butkus

Mercer University and Robins Air Force Base recently celebrated a 20-year partnership — a pact that has spawned more than 1,000 engineering graduates and provided a large number of qualified engineers for the local military installation.

The partnership began before Mercer even had a School of Engineering. In fact, the Engineering School was born from the need of qualified engineers for the Warner Robins base.

In 1983, Maj. Gen. Cornelius Nugteren, the commander of the Warner Robins Air Logistic Center at the time, realized that the base needed more qualified engineers in order to fulfill its mission. The local labor pool was unable to keep pace with the base's demand for engineers, and he knew a solid, well-rounded engineering program was needed to keep Robins viable.

Nugteren approached various educational institutions, asking for help in establishing an engineering school in central Georgia. But he was rejected time and time again. Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey was the only individual willing to step forward and help Nugteren in this pinch.

Nugteren praised Godsey for his courage despite the potential for strong opposition. "Godsey said, 'If you want

an engineering school, Mercer will give you one.' And that's where it all started," Nugteren said.

Godsey said it was just the right thing to do for the community. "One of Mercer's strengths has been our connection with the community," he said. "That's been one of our defining touchstones. The Engineering School is just one more example."

As a result of Godsey and Nugteren's conversation, Mercer School of Engineering was founded in 1985. And two years later, the Mercer Engineering Research Center (MERC) opened in Warner Robins. The Center has become the University's formal research and development arm, and contracts with both government and commercial customers.

Today, both Mercer and Robins Air Force Base continue to benefit from the

partnership formed two decades years ago. Mercer provides the largest number of engineering graduates to the Robins Air Force Base, and nearly 300 Mercer engineering graduates live in central Georgia. The Engineering School is widely recognized as a top institution throughout the nation. And MERC provides hands-on experience to Mercer students by employing students as engineering assistants. Many MERC engineers also volunteer their own time to consult and assist Mercer students with their senior design projects.

Godsey said the benefits of the partnership don't stop there.

"This is an important partnership for this entire region," he said. "It has made a very positive impact on the community and enabled us to make a greater difference in the region."



Pictured, from left, are Major General Richard Goddard, Major General Donald J. Wetekam, Mercer President R. Kirby Godsey and Major General Cornelius Nugteren.

Mercer STC Chapter Wins National Awards

By Jenny Butkus

Mercer University's Society for Technical Communication Chapter recently was honored with two awards at the STC international conference in Dallas.

The 23-member student chapter received the Student Chapter of Distinction Award, the highest honor given to a student chapter in this professional society. The award is only given to one student chapter in each of the STC's two chapter size categories.

The Mercer STC chapter also was honored with the Chapter of Excellence Award for the second straight year. In order to achieve this honor, the students had to complete and document a series of activities and projects.

Denise Cook, who graduated from Mercer with a bachelor of science degree in technical communication in May, served as president of the STC chapter during the 2002-2003 academic year. She said the awards were the culmination of many months of hard work.

Members of Mercer's STC chapter initiated a new technical document competition for senior engineering students at Mercer, published articles in both of the STC's official publications, participated in several community service projects, published a monthly newsletter, co-sponsored a workshop with Mercer's Technical Communication Department, held a welcome breakfast for new Technical Communication Department staff members and spearheaded several other activities throughout the year.

"This award reflects the hard work put into the chapter by our members as well as our goals to excel in our career field," said Cook.

Mercer Students Help in Research for NASA

By Renee Martinez

Josh Hilderbrand's senior research project wasn't rocket science, but it was pretty close. As an engineering student at Mercer University, Hilderbrand turned his love of science into a career that could have far-reaching effects.

Like most students, Hilderbrand, who graduated from Mercer School of Engineering in May 2003, didn't choose a career until his senior year at Harris County High School. Growing up in rural Hamilton, Ga., he worked with his father in the family's machine shop. When the time came for him to choose a career path, he fell back on what he knew: working with his hands.

"I just put two and two together," said Hilderbrand. "I loved building and making, and math and science. So, I decided that engineering would be a good match for me."

Hilderbrand was then faced with the difficult decision of choosing a college.

The oldest of four children, Hilderbrand was the first one in his family to pursue a college degree. When time came to choose the right college, he turned to his high school counselor for guidance. She helped him enter a competition for a scholarship to Mercer University, and he won.

"That was pretty much the deciding factor on where to go," said Hilderbrand, who also received the HOPE Scholarship.

During his four-year stay at Mercer, Hilderbrand had the opportunity to explore different avenues of engineering, and including working on a research project for NASA. In summer 2002, he worked for the Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, where he was tasked with researching heat transfer in a

reduced gravity setting, a mission that could affect life at future space stations.

Jeff Allen, a staff scientist with the National Center for Microgravity Research, and one of the leaders of Hilderbrand's project, explained the student's work this way: when a person sweats, it cools him down. Engineers apply that principle of heat transfer to efficiently cool many things. In order for the object to cool, the water must evaporate from the surface of the object. On earth, that's no problem, but in space, the condensation collects and doesn't evaporate.

Hilderbrand, along with a team of five other senior engineering students at Mercer, studied a way to stop condensation from pooling up in a reduced gravity setting, so that heat transfer will work as effectively in space as it does on earth. For their design project, Dennis Adams, Stormie Chenoweth, Cynthia Dickman, Josh Hilderbrand, Scott Silence, and Chelsea Smith built an apparatus that will help researchers do preliminary testing on the heat transfer project.

"I'm very impressed with the scope of this senior design project," said Allen. "It's reflective of the work students will find in the real world."

Hilderbrand says he made the right decision in choosing Mercer University. "A nice aspect of the school is that because of its size, you can talk to the faculty one-on-one and find that they're all down to earth," said

the student. "I'm more comfortable here than I would be at a larger school, and I feel like I've learned more."

Allen also commented on the caliber of Mercer's School of Engineering. "I get the opportunity to work with many students, and the level of program that Mercer has is not that common," he said. "The education [students] get will be a fantastic resource for them in the future."

During high school, Hilderbrand took classes in advanced math and sciences, which he said has helped him with his studies at Mercer. He said that trigonometry, calculus and physics were classes he enjoyed.

"When you put them together, you get engineering. But I've also always been good at solving word problems," he said. "And that's really what engineering is, solving problems that have real meaning."

Allen agreed. "The best part of being an engineer is really the creativity and problem solving. Even though there is a lot of math and science, little of it is 'cookbook.' You get to use your own creative process

and, in many ways, be artistic."

Hilderbrand is now continuing his studies in graduate school at Rensselaer University in Troy, N.Y. He is pursuing a master's degree to help him focus on specific areas of engineering, but says that a master's degree is not necessary to find a good job after college.

For Hilderbrand, the next step after a master's degree may be to pursue his doctoral degree.

"I haven't decided about that yet," he said. "Getting a Ph.D. opens doors, but it closes others. That degree really narrows down your field, and you may find that only two or three places in the country are looking for engineers with that specialty. Whatever I do, I hope to serve a real purpose by just doing what I enjoy."

Editor's Note: Since this article ran in Edge

magazine, Hilderbrand and the rest of his design team were honored with a second place award in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Fluids Engineering Division Senior Design Report Contest.

This article was adapted from Edge magazine with permission from Imedia Inc.



Mercer Attracts Women in Engineering

By Jenny Butkus

Mercer University School of Engineering is receiving national attention for its female-friendly atmosphere.

The School of Engineering is ranked eighth in the nation in percentage of female students earning bachelor degrees and second in the nation in percentage of women faculty tenured or on tenure-track in the latest edition of *Profiles of Engineering and Engineering Technology Schools*. This is an annual publication of the American Society for Engineering Education.

The rankings represent data between July 1, 2001, and June 30, 2002, for degrees awarded and from fall 2002 for the number of faculty members. During that time frame, 37.9 percent of the degrees awarded from the School of Engineering were to women and 27.6 percent of the engineering faculty tenured or on tenure-track were women. Mercer was surpassed only by Santa Clara University in the percentage of women faculty tenured/tenure track.

At Georgia Institute of Technology, 28.4 percent of the bachelor in engineering degrees awarded were to women and 11.4 percent of the engineering faculty tenured or on tenure-track were women.

Alumnae and faculty say Mercer School of Engineering is an attractive



The School of Engineering is ranked eighth in the nation in percentage of female students earning bachelor degrees and second in the nation in percentage of women faculty tenured or on tenure-track in the latest edition of Profiles of Engineering and Engineering Technology Schools.

learning and working environment to women for a variety of reasons.

"I think Mercer allows more opportunities for women than other institutions," said Jackie Smith, a 1998 Mercer environmental engineering graduate.

Smith said larger, predominately male institutions can be intimidating to women interested in pursuing a degree in engineering, but Mercer's small size, coupled with the high number of female engineering faculty, provide a nurturing environment that make

women students feel comfortable.

Dr. Phillip Olivier, a professor at the School of Engineering, feels having a diverse classroom environment is a good thing. Mercer provides a quality engineering education, he said, and the fact that male and female students alike are attracted to Mercer's engineering program is a testament to the quality education Mercer provides.

Dr. Joan Burtner, an assistant professor at School of Engineering, earned her undergraduate degree at Mercer School of Engineering and has been teaching at the University for 12 years. Burtner said she thinks the School's emphasis on fieldwork and collaboration over competition are attractive to both male and female students.

"And research shows many women are interested in service-oriented careers. Mercer provides various avenues for female students who are interested in engineering and who also want to give back to the community," Burtner added.

Dr. Renee Rogge, an assistant professor at Mercer and the adviser to the Society of Women Engineers, is excited about the School of Engineering's recent rankings. "I think these rankings reflect well on Mercer University," she said. "We are providing an environment capable of encouraging women to achieve their full potential in careers as engineers and leaders."

TIGER TRAP!



Mercer alumnus **Bill Stapleton**, ENG '95, played golf with **Tiger Woods** in the "Tiger Trap" shootout in October. He was one of four amateurs to play in the closest-to-the-pin competition and walked away victorious with a new \$39,000 Buick Rainer.

Bears Win Championship in Gym’s Last Season

By Meghan Draughon

In light of the construction of the \$40-million, 230,000-square-foot University Center, which includes a state-of-the-art basketball arena, the 70-year tradition of Mercer athletics in Porter Gym had to come to a close. The promoted farewell event was a bittersweet one as the Bears took on the Stetson Hatters on March 1. (While awaiting construction completion of the University Center, the Bears played a few games in Porter Gym to begin the 2003-04 season.) Perhaps it was the nostalgia of the place, or maybe Mercer’s record-breaking season that drew the hundreds of alumni and student spectators to pay their respects.

The gym’s 500-person capacity was definitely put to the test as students, alumni, faculty and staff squeezed into the stands becoming a sea of orange and black. The Mercerians demonstrated relentless spirit.

Mercer led by a mere three points at half-time, but the Bears had come too far to let victory pass them by. From last season’s 6-23 record, Coach Mark Slonaker had led the team to an impressive 22-5 record marking the biggest turnaround in NCAA history.

As the final buzzer sounded, the scoreboard read 101-84, tying Mercer for the number one seed in the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament. This 22nd victory tied the 1985 team record, while setting a new record for 11 straight wins and clinching the first regular-season conference championship in the University’s history.

Mercer’s former coaches, players and cheerleaders were invited to attend a celebration dinner before going to the game where they were each honored at half-time. In his welcoming speech, Bobby Wilder, a former player and coach from 1956-1970, recalled that Porter Gym used to be the biggest court in the area, widely regarded as the premier place to play basketball in the state of Georgia at the time.

“If we could have played every game in Porter Gym, we would have set world records,” he exclaimed.

Jim Cowan, who coached from 1946-1951, likewise showed that he had not lost any of his Mercer spirit as he approached the podium, blew his whistle and announced that the first drill of the evening would be wind sprints. He enumerated some of his fondest memories from his coaching days. “Looking up in the stands and seeing my wife and daughters supporting me — with a white towel over my shoulder and a bunch of sweaty players lined up at my side —

that’s about as close to heaven as you can get on this earth,” he concluded.

Among the attending alumni were some of the best players to step foot on Porter’s court. Tommy Mixon, whose #7 jersey was retired upon his 1955 graduation, still holds the title of the second highest scorer in the history of Mercer basketball with 1,801 points. He remarked that despite its disadvantages, Porter Gym still has one of the better playing floors in the state of Georgia.

Jud Roberts, class of 1969, is hailed as Mercer’s fourth highest scorer with 1,699 points. He traveled from California to reunite with old friends and teammates and say goodbye to a piece of their past.

“I’ve got a lot of great memories in this gym, but it’s time for them to go,” he said. “This team has packed this place tonight; they need the new gym on-campus so all their fans can come to the games.”

After spending so many years on

After spending so many years on that court learning not just about the mechanics of basketball, but about comradery, sportsmanship, teamwork and loyalty, it is no wonder the alumni feel such affection for Mercer’s home court.

that court learning not just about the mechanics of basketball, but about comradery, sportsmanship, teamwork and loyalty, it is no wonder the alumni feel such affection for Mercer’s home court. The reunion of former athletes sparked an energy Porter Gym has not likely seen in some time. They brought with them so many memories and stories, fleshing out Mercer’s traditions and spirit.

Algy Carbonell Edwards, a cheerleader from the class of 1958, recalled how much things had changed since she left. “When I was a cheerleader, my skirt came down to my knees and the boys’ shorts were very, very short. Now it is just the opposite!”

John Hughes, class of 1955, and his twin brother, James, grew up together

playing basketball in Porter Gym, from childhood all the way through college. “This is a very nostalgic time for me. My twin brother and I used to come in here and play on this floor, since the time we were eight years old playing in the grammar school play-offs.” Hughes rooted for his home team, encouraging each player by name and affectionately heckling the referee when the calls became too trivial, like any true orange-and-black Mercerian would. “Make those boys tuck in their shirts one more time, Ref! I’m counting on you, Big Guy!” There was much to be learned about pride and school spirit from the passion that exuded from the alumni section of the stands.

Most are thrilled about the pending expansion, but saying goodbye to a place housing so many fond memories is never easy. Dan Nyimicz, coach from 1951-1953, commented, “This is the best home floor in the world because the fans are so close to the players and they can make so much noise! We will lose a little of that feel in the new facility, but so many more people will be able to come, which is great.”

Kali Bogden, a women’s player from the class of 1990, was very optimistic about the move. “Nobody likes to see anything with so much tradition go away, but I think Mercer has done a great job of bowing this gym out, and I know the tradition will carry on.”

As the chaotic elation began to melt into order, the heads of each player, followed by Coach Slonaker, wet and freezing from his celebratory “icing,” emerged above the crowd to cut down the nets. The symbolic gesture showed respect

for the past and excitement for the future of the Mercer Bears. The alumni began to shake hands and once again say their goodbyes, to each other and to Porter Gym.

“We may be the best of Mercer’s past, but this is Mercer’s future, and they need their own place to grow,” said Woody Richardson, a player from the class of 1958. “Our memories are here, but there are new ones to be made in the new gym. We wouldn’t have it any other way.”

After a night of nail-biting basketball and a blast from the past, the student body remembered what it means to “bleed orange.” School spirit has been rejuvenated and vows have been made to carry on Mercer’s sacred traditions. With new school records and a clearer understanding of what it

is to be a Mercerian, the students and alumni are ready to head across the street

to the new University Center with hope and pride, ready to leave their own mark.



Three Mercer Coaches Named Best in the A-Sun for 2002-03

Academic year 2002-2003 was not only an excellent one for the University in the areas of academics, fund raising, facility improvements and alumni support, but also in the world of athletics.

Three Mercer coaches were named Atlantic Sun Coach of the Year after their squads successfully completed banner years in competition.

In July, softball coach Toni Foti became the third Mercer coach to win the distinguished honor for the year after his Bears recorded the most wins in school history and finished at 35-23. The Bears also qualified for the A-Sun Tournament for the first time since 1997 and finished third overall. Also, six of Foti’s players earned All-Academic honors with a 3.0 or higher grade point average during the season.



(L-R) Sun-A Coaches of the Year, **Mark Slonaker** (Men’s Basketball), **Tony Foti** (Softball), and **Tom Melville** (Soccer)



Myers' Retirement: A Celebration of Excellence

By Wes Griffith

Since becoming the first intercollegiate sport to be played at Mercer, baseball has remained a very special part of the University. Starting in 1890, the Mercer baseball team lost only one game over its first seven seasons. So began a commitment to excellence that has always been required of Mercer's baseball players both on and off the field.

Since 1977, Mercer has ensured its trust in Coach Barry Myers to uphold that excellence. Over those 26 years (five as an assistant to Coach Claude Smith), he became the winningest coach (649) in Mercer history.

Myers' success on the field has been more than matched by the performance of his players in the classroom. One season, 24 of his 30 student-athletes were named to the conference's All-Academic team.

"We always took it one game at a time and one win at a time, and we made sure our players were getting it done in the classroom as well," he said.

Craig Gibson, Myers' successor as head coach and longtime assistant, played for Myers in 1982. He, like many others, speaks of Myers as a great man before discussing his excellence as a baseball coach. "Once you played for him," said Gibson, "he treated you like family. He'd go out on a limb for you; he'd do anything to help you, whatever it took to make sure you were successful."

Myers was also a professor at Mercer. He taught a full load of physical education classes, as he did at all his coaching stops, until the P.E. program was dropped at Mercer in the late '80s. In his early years at the University, he also functioned as the baseball team's first assistant, second assistant, trainer and groundskeeper. Such was the norm during the years Myers was advancing through the ranks.

He talks of his coach at Marshall University, Bill Chambers, along with Florida State University's Danny Litwhiler and Miami-Dade Community College's Demie Maneiri, who are both in the College Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame, as some of the great baseball minds to which he's most indebted.

Litwhiler, coach at Florida State when Myers signed on as a graduate assistant, gave Myers his first glimpse at "how a practice was supposed to be organized — guys in batting cages, three or four guys hitting ground balls to the infielders, three or four hitting stations, various drills going on."

Litwhiler had 16 years of major league experience, created hitting drills

in which curve balls were simulated by a ball tied to piece of rope, pitching drills in which unbreakable mirrors were employed for pitchers to scrutinize their own mechanics, and he was the first to use a radar gun to calibrate the speed of pitches.

He and Demie Maneiri, who Myers coached under at Miami-Dade Community College, were among a group of coaches who played an integral role in the evolution of college baseball. "They were dedicated baseball men 365 days a year," said Myers, "the first to create a great baseball atmosphere with great facilities, batting cages and weight-training programs."

When asked about coaching under

Claude Smith, Myers said, "he was another one of those guys that I was fortunate enough to be around back then. When baseball got going again after World War II, they were the true

pioneers of the game during the '40s, '50s and into the '60s."

According to Myers' contemporaries, he became quite the respected mentor and admired baseball figure during his own era. Georgia State University's head baseball coach, Mike Hurst, talks of watching Myers with great admiration from afar.

Myers had just become a head coach during Hurst's college years. Hurst would later coach against Myers, which, "was the ultimate privilege for me," he said, "but it was rough, because Coach Myers was always tough to beat."

"College baseball is truly going to miss Barry Myers," Hurst added. "He is a dying breed in terms of commitment level. You can't find many like him these days. And the thing that most people don't know about Coach Myers is the incredible number of unbelievable things he has done for young men through baseball. He's done so many things behind the scenes for his players that people just don't know about."

Myers' selfless dedication to Mercer, his students and his players is also reflected in the warmth in which Coach Gibson speaks of him. "It has been a priceless opportunity that doesn't come along very often, working with Coach

Myers. To be around a guy that gives so much of himself to others is an experience that can't be measured."

"He has an unbelievable knowledge of the game," added Gibson, "and an incredible ability to communicate with players of all ages, to get his point across in a positive way."

Mike Martin, head baseball coach at Florida State, first met Coach Myers when he was a graduate assistant at FSU. As a player, Martin saw something special in Myers' coaching and followed him to Jacksonville and Mercer. "Coach was a guy who always put the player first," he said. "In everything he did, he made the player the focal point ... we will miss his approach to the game; he made it fun for everyone, and he never tried to win the game through intimidation, but by outthinking you."

Coach Jay Bergman, head baseball coach at University of Central Florida, has known Coach Myers since 1967 and has competed against him as a conference rival for the last 10 years. He was quick to note how well the Bears play at home. "Barry's players always played very well at home. When you went to Mercer, it always seemed like you were in a dogfight."

Myers' coaching accolades at Mercer include three conference championships and three divisional titles. He was named Conference Coach of the Year in 1979, 1981, 1983, and 1994.

"It's been a tremendous challenge," said Myers, "to compete in Division I with a small private university that has such strong academics. It's not easy finding great baseball players, and it's a little harder to find them when they must be outstanding students as well. But I think we've managed to do that, and I think we've competed well, which is really a testament to the parents' and players' sacrifices. Mercer was founded as a degree-granting institution, not a



Coach Barry Myers, pictured with his son and former Mercer baseball player, Robb, at the retirement dinner held in his honor.

baseball school. I'd always tell the players, 'don't forget your priorities. Number one, get your degree; two, be the best player you can be; three, have a good college life.'"

During Myers' years at Florida State University and Miami-Dade Community College, three fields were needed to accommodate all of the players that tried out for the team. Myers, who feels players improve more by playing than practicing, misses the days when he could watch six teams play throughout the fall, evaluate them and then choose the players that would comprise the one team competing in spring. "We played a whole season in the fall," he said, "before the regular season even began." For several years now, the NCAA has forbidden any baseball season, including practice, to last more than 22 weeks. During a 20-21 week season, there is no time for Fall League. This has been a disadvantage to Mercer teams that have, in past years under Myers, often outworked their opponents to achieve success.

Coach Joe Pettini, another of Coach's former players, played several years in the majors and is currently an assistant coach for the St. Louis Cardinals. He was the first player to

sign with Coach Myers at Mercer. Myers originally signed him while coaching at Jacksonville but was able to bring the promising talent with him to Mercer. Pettini said, "I am very grateful to Coach Myers. He brought me down from West Virginia and gave me the opportunity to play a 55-game schedule against the best schools in the South. He really prepared me for my professional career, and he turned Mercer into a force in the Southeast."

After graduating from Marshall University, where he played football and baseball, Myers coached three years at Magnolia High School in New Martinsville, W.Va. He got his college-coaching start in 1962 when Florida State hired him as a graduate assistant and promptly asked him to handle the pitching staff. FSU went on to compete in the College World Series that year and finish the season ranked 4th in the country.

The next season, after being hired as an assistant coach at Miami-Dade Community College, Myers handled recruiting and a pitching staff that beat Hall of Fame pitcher and Atlanta Braves announcer Don Sutton 2-1 to win the Florida Junior College State Champion-

— Continued on Page 19

This Season's Must Have!

Mercer's new Sweatshirt Fleece Blankets are a great way to show your school spirit. Whether enjoying a Mercer baseball game or an evening at home in front of the TV, these blankets are sure to keep you warm during cool nights!

Priced at only \$30, these blankets are sure to sell fast!

Pick up your Mercer blanket today by visiting www.mercer.edu/athletics/onlinestore.htm.

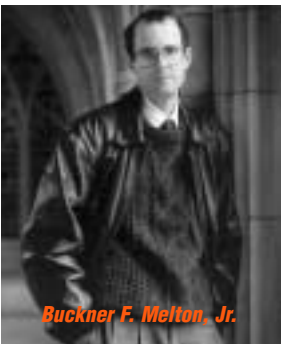


Mercer Alumnae, **Denise Cook**, ENG '03, **Jennifer Chapman Joyner**, CLA '95, and **Katie Baldree**, CLA '03, show their Mercer spirit at Mercer's Claude Smith baseball field.

Buckner F. Melton Jr. is Mercer Writer-in-Residence, University Press Fellow

Nationally acclaimed historical and political writer Buckner F. Melton Jr. has returned home to serve as Mercer University's writer-in-residence for the next five years. He is also serving as a Mercer University Press fellow.

A 1984 Mercer graduate, Melton has published three major books as well as numerous scholarly publications. His first book, *The First Impeachment: The Constitution's Framers and the Case of Senator William Blount* (Mercer, 1998), won him national recognition, as its publication in 1998 coincided with the impeachment hearings of President Bill Clinton. During the Clinton impeachment, Melton was called upon to advise various members of Congress and to give expert commentary on MSNBC, *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, National Public Radio's *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*, and many other national and regional news agencies. More recently, Melton, who has also written *Aaron Burr: Conspiracy to*



A 1984 Mercer graduate, Melton has published three major books as well as numerous scholarly publications.

Treason (Wiley, 2002), has occasionally been called upon by Minnesota Public Radio and Wisconsin Public Radio to discuss treason and national security law in the wake of September 11 and in relation to the John Walker Lindh episode. Melton also writes guest

columns in Raleigh, North Carolina's *The News & Observer* and in *The Macon Telegraph*.

His most recent book, *A Hanging Offense: The Strange Affair of the Warship Somers* (Free Press, 2003), hit bookshelves last April. Melton describes this historical account of mutiny aboard a U.S. Navy training ship in the mid 1800s as

"Mutiny on the Bounty meets Lord of the Flies." The book was met with much praise. *Publishers Weekly* called it "coherent and absorbing," while the *Wall Street Journal* described it as "swashbuckling" and praised Melton's analysis of the court-martial that followed the mutiny. As a Mercer University Press fellow, Melton, assists faculty members in their

writing endeavors. Melton also teaches some history and law courses at Mercer. But his primary job is to write. "Mercer is a fine university," Melton said. "I'm excited about returning home." After graduating magna cum laude from Mercer with a degree in history

and political science in 1984, Melton attended Duke University, where he received his master's degree in history in 1986 and Ph.D. in history in 1990. He earned his law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1996. Melton served as a history instructor

at Duke University in 1989, a visiting assistant professor of history at Georgia Southern University in 1990 and 1991, and an assistant professor of history at Elon College between 1991 and 1996. He also served as a clinical associate professor of law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Mercer Grad Named to S.C. Tennis Hall of Fame By Jenny Butkus

After contributing 35 years of service to the South Carolina Tennis Association as a player, volunteer, coach and administrator, Mercer University graduate *Jerry "Snuffy" Smith*, CLA '60, was inducted into the South Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame last December.

The Irmo, S.C., resident is among the top tennis players in his state, having ranked in singles, doubles and mixed doubles for more than 15 years. He has served as a captain and player in three state championship league teams and played on the 1993 South Carolina Senior Cup team. "Participating in a sport such as tennis only reinforces the recollections of my days at Mercer, where a student was offered not only challenging academic standards, but also

a healthy program of intramural and varsity athletics," Smith said. "I am pleased to be the recipient of this honor." The Mercer alumnus also shares his passion for tennis with others. In



1974, he was one of three founders of the Junior Tennis League in Richland and Lexington counties. He has been instrumental in the program's growth from 100 players to more than 700 players today, with an aggregate of 10,000 players since its inception.

He has held numerous offices and committee positions with the South Carolina Tennis Association. As founder and president of Transcon Trading Company — an export management company — Smith brought a business mindset to the SCTA. Thanks to his leadership, the Adult Southern Sectional Championships, which was the largest tennis tournament in the world at the time, were held in Columbia, S.C., in 1989. Smith served as Chairman of the South Carolina Tennis Foundation in 1989 and 1990, and he initiated the state senior and mixed doubles leagues in South Carolina. The Mercer graduate also set up the first Sectional Mixed Doubles championships between South Carolina and Georgia.

M A R R I A G E S & B I R T H S

1975

Scott F. Kilgore, BA, and his wife, Lanna, announce the birth of their son, William Clayton, on Nov. 22, 2002. He joins two sisters, Cate and Meredith. The family resides in Bowling Green, Ky.

1982

J. Bryan Fobbus, BA, married **Patrice Outler**, BA '83, on July 27, 2002. The couple resides in Warner Robins.

1983

Patrice Outler, BA. See **J. Bryan Fobbus**, BA '82. **Jo Minor Phelps**, BA, married Richard W. Brokenshire on Nov. 30, 2002. The couple resides in Asheville, N.C.

1986

Laura Player Bonner, BA, and her husband, Jim, announce the birth of their daughter, Anna Marie, on Oct. 3, 2002. She joins two brothers, Jordan and Jonathan. The family resides in Albany.

Kimberly Layne McWilliams, BBA, and her husband, Craig, announce the birth of their first child, Carter Layne, on March 17, 2002. The family resides in Acworth.

1988

Douglas Matheson, BS, and his wife, **Astrid H. Khayat**, JD '92, announce the birth of their son in February. Matheson is the branch manager of First American Title in Houston, Texas, where Khayat has been named director of contract controls at Enron North America.

1989

Peter T. Mullady, BA, and his wife, Mary Ann, announce the birth of their son, Peter T. Mullady Jr., on Jan. 25, 2001. The family resides in Grayson. **Elizabeth Way**, BBA, married Don Edward Chandler on Oct. 26, 2002. The couple resides in Atlanta where Way is the director of government relations for the Georgia Bankers Association.

1992

Shea Scobey Thompson, BA, and her husband, **Ricardo Thompson**, BA, announce the birth of their son, Tanner Chase, on Sept. 28, 2002. He joins a sister, Scobey, and a brother, Trinity. The family resides in Miami Springs, Fla.

1993

Kelly Black Berger, BA, and her husband, **Ray Berger**, BBA, BA, announce the birth of their son, Joshua Frank, on Sept. 5, 2002. He joins a brother, Zachary. The family resides in Dunwoody. **James Bond**, BSE, and his wife, Nichole, announce the birth of their daughter, Mallory Hope, on Nov. 15, 2001. She joins a sister, Marah, and the family resides in Lizella. **Jennifer Sherwood Bragg**, BS, married Steve Bragg on Aug. 24, 2002. Bragg works as a self-employed dentist in Cumming. **Dawn Foster**, BA, and her husband, Ric, announce the birth of their daughter, Kennedy Moore, on June 14, 2002. She joins a sister, Baylee. The family resides in Tampa, Fla.

Jennifer Richardson Golwyn, BBA, MBA '00, married Daniel Golwyn Jr. in Maui, Hawaii on Sept. 25, 2002. The couple resides in Clemmons, N.C.

Robert Guest, BSE, announces the birth of his son, Davis Carlton, on Nov. 18, 2002.

Michael Lake, BS, and his wife, Susan, announce the birth of their son, Robert Samuel, on Nov. 7, 2002. The family resides in Atlanta.

Tolliver (Tobby) Rivers, BBA, and his wife, **Kathryn Preston Rivers**, BA '94, announce the birth of their daughter, Quinn Marie, on Nov. 16, 2002. The family resides in Mooresville, N.C., where Rivers is a training manager with Wachovia Bank.

Jack Seal, BBA, BA, and his wife, Christa, announce the birth of their son, James Alexander (Alex), on Sept. 16, 2002. The family resides in Denver, Colo.

Mary Kay McPherson Smith, BA, and her husband, **Todd Smith**, BBA, MBA, announce the birth of triplets, Benjamin Todd, Matthew Jackson and Mary Margaret, on May 31, 2002. The family resides in Lizella.

Morgan Templeton, BA, and his wife, Catherine, announce the birth of their first child, Julia, on Aug. 23, 2002. Templeton has formed the law firm, Elmore and Wall, P.A., with 10 other attorneys in South Carolina and North Carolina. The family resides in Mount Pleasant, S.C.

1994

Chad Boggan, BSME, and his wife, Deandre, announce the birth of their son, Cade Labelle Boggan, on Sept. 15, 2002. He joins a sister, Nina, and the family resides in Bartlett, Tenn.

1995

Cherie Blizzard Bennett, BA, and her husband, Glen, announce the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Gresham Bennett, on Oct. 9, 2002. The family resides in Atlanta. **Christopher Donnelly**, BA, and his wife, Robyn, announce the birth of their son, Ryan Patrick, on Sept. 16, 2002. The family resides in Newtown, Conn. **Laura Parrott Hightower**, BA, and her husband, Nathan, announce

A L U M N I N E W S

1937

Louise W. Marsh, AB, was crowned queen of the Peanut Festival of Roper, N.C., on Sept. 14, 2002.

1951

Jim Murray Walker, AB, and his wife, Joann, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on December 21, 2002, with a renewal of their vows. Walker is a Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Eastern Kentucky University. The couple resides in Lexington, Ky.

1955

Claude (Mick) Kicklighter, AB, has been named the director of operations, security and preparedness of homeland security for the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. He and his wife, Betty, reside in McLean, Va.

1958

Frank Byington, AB, has retired as president of Wakefield Pharmaceuticals, which he founded in 1991 and divested to IVAX Corporation in 2000. He resides in Alpharetta.

1960

Charlotte Marlow Anderson, AB, MEd '87, retired on Jan.1 as a media specialist from Dry Branch Elementary School in Twiggs County.

Shirley Randall, AB, and her husband, **Maurice Randall**, AB '61, have retired from international missions after 30 years of overseas service. The couple resides in Cedartown.

1961

Maurice Randall, AB. *See Shirley Randall*, AB '60.

Janet Sherling, AB, retired from the Clayton County Board of Education on July 1, 2002. She had been the principal of Edmonds Elementary School. She and her husband, James, reside in Jonesboro.

1969

Gary Abbott, BA, was ordained as a deacon to the transitional diaconate of the Episcopal Church of Georgia on Aug. 3, 2002, serving St. Stephen in Milledgeville and St. Luke in Hawkinsville.

Hollis Lewis, BA, retired as district attorney for Milam County, Texas in 2001, after 11 years of practice. Lewis is now a sole practitioner in private practice in Cameron, Texas.

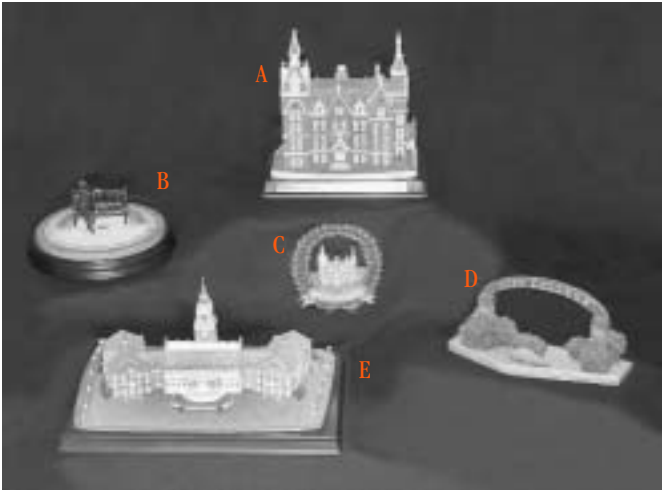
1970

Timothy A. Pape, BA, has been re-elected to his fifth term as the Floyd County Juvenile Court Judge, a position he has served in for 20 years. He and his wife, Jane, reside in Rome.

Mercer University Miniatures Through Alumni Services

Mercer University Miniatures are reproductions from original sculptures created by Ridgewood Collectables for Mercer University. Each piece is cast using marble and porcelain powder mixed with resin and is hand painted under careful quality and artistic standards. These limited edition productions are available only while supplies last.

Sizes: A. Mercer Administration Building: 7 1/4" x 5 1/2" x 8"; B. Jesse Mercer Plaza: 6" diameter x 3 1/2"; C. Mercer Christmas Ornament: 4" diameter; D. Tift College Arch: 7 3/4" x 3 1/4" x 4"; E. Mercer Law School: 11" x 7 1/2" x 6".



Mercer University Miniatures Through Alumni Services

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Daytime phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Please indicate your selections (costs include all sales tax and insured shipping and handling):

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Mercer Administration Building — \$55 | No. of items _____ @ \$55 = _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. Jesse Mercer Plaza — \$28 | No. of items _____ @ \$28 = _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. Mercer Christmas Ornament — \$12 | No. of items _____ @ \$12 = _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Tift College Arch — \$28 | No. of items _____ @ \$28 = _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E. Mercer School of Law — \$55 | No. of items _____ @ \$55 = _____ |

TOTAL _____

Please make checks payable to Mercer University and send to Mercer University, Office of Alumni Services, 1400 Coleman Avenue, Macon, GA 31207. If paying using credit card, please complete and mail to us the following information:

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express Card # _____

Expiration date _____ Signature _____

M A R R I A G E S & B I R T H S

the birth of their daughter, Ansley Caroline, on Sept. 26, 2002. High-tower is pursuing a master's degree in early childhood education at the State University of West Georgia.

Graison Aldridge Hoard, BA, married Keith L. Hoard on Aug. 3, 2002. In 2001, Aldridge underwent two organ transplant operations, receiving a kidney and a pancreas. She and her new husband reside in Cordova, Tenn.

Melissa Moore Posey, BA, and her husband, Timothy, announce the birth of their second son, Brock David, on Nov. 15, 2002. He joins a brother, Jacob. The family resides in Jacksonville, Fla.

Jae Feather Runsick, BBA, and her husband, David, announce the birth of their first child, Andrew Joseph, on Nov. 9, 2002. The family resides in Atlanta.

Kendra DeLoatche Stephenson, BBA, and her husband, Jeff, announce the birth of their son, Thomas Gray (Gray), on Aug. 6, 2002. The family resides in Lawrenceville.

Katherine Kerns Vesely, BA, married **William S. Vesely**, BSE '96,

on Oct. 26, 2002. The couple resides in Louisville, Ky.

1996

Millicent Burnett Croom, BA, married **Jon-Paul Croom**, BA, on July 27, 2002. The couple resides in Birmingham, Ala.

Langdon C. Harp, BA, BS, married Christina Marie Davis on July 29, 2002. The couple resides in Reynolds.

Christopher Lyons, BS, married Debra Dion on Dec. 21, 2002. Lyons is Chief of Police in the Alstead Police Department in Alstead, N.H. The couple resides in Marlow, N.H.

William S. Vesely, BSE. *See Katherine Kerns Vesely*, BA '95.

1997

Penny Berry Cliff, BA, and her husband, Bill, announce the birth of their daughter, Nikki, on Oct. 2, 2002. Cliff was voted County Employee of the Year for 2002 at Thomaston-Upson Archives.

Susan Shuster Hamilton, BA, married Chris Hamilton on Sept. 15, 2001. Hamilton completed a master of education degree in French in

December 1998 at the University of Georgia and is now attending Brenau University to add a third teaching certificate. The couple resides in Lawrenceville.

Heather Luiggi, BA, and her husband, Efrain, announce the birth of their daughter, Isabel Karalyn, on May 21, 2002.

Todd Smith, MBA. *See Mary Kay McPherson Smith*, BA '93.

1998

Olawunmi Hassan Bello, BBA, married Saula Adewale Bello on June 16, 2001. The couple has a daughter, Faith Oluwaseyitan Bello, and resides in Dallas, Texas, where Bello is a funds accountant for JP Morgan Chase.

1999

Louis Abbott, BA, and his wife, Jana, announce the birth of their son, Ethan Abercrombie, on Aug. 12, 2002. The family resides in Macon where Abbott is an assistant director of admissions for Mercer University.

Alia Franklin, BS, and her husband, Jason, announce the birth of

their son, Dylan Ray, on Aug. 12, 2002. The family resides in Ellenwood where Franklin is an assistant operations manager for TRC Staffing Services.

2000

Derrell W. Anglyn III, BA, married Heather Rose on Sept. 21, 2002. The couple resides in McDonough.

Joy Williams Brotherton, BA, married **Mike Brotherton**, BA '01, on Aug. 16, 2002. They are both pursuing master's degrees and will graduate from the University of Denver in June 2003.

Courtney Jones Dalton, BBA, announces the birth of her son, Walker Cole, on Oct. 19, 2002. He joins a sister, Caroline Elizabeth. The family resides in Newnan.

Rachel Hopkins Garza, BA, married Jesse Garza on September 15, 2001. She is the Director of University Relations and Marketing for Mercer University. The couple resides in Warner Robins.

2001

Kristina Livingston Blanks, BS,

married Steven Blanks on April 20, 2002. The couple resides in McDonough, where Blanks is a second grade teacher.

Mike Brotherton, BA. *See Joy Williams Brotherton*, BA '00.

Melissa Zubia McNinch, BA, was married on July 2, 2002, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in human resources management at Troy State University. The couple resides in Covington.

Cindy Stinnette, BS, announces the birth of her son, Harrison Davis, on Sept. 16, 2001. Stinnette is a kindergarten teacher in Harris County, and the family resides in Shiloh.

2002

Casey Leverett McMath, BA, married John Rowland McMath Jr. on June 22, 2002. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in English literature at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville. The couple resides in Macon.

Mercer Graduate’s Opera Career Reaches Higher Octaves

By Elizabeth Flader

Leah Partridge Hunt, CLA ’97, remembers fondly her Mercer portrayal of Laetitia in Menotti’s *The Old Maid and the Thief*, where her character elopes with Bob, the tramp, and the two end up stealing most of Miss Todd’s belongings. Theses days, however, the only “stealing” in Leah’s career is that of hearts of patrons who see her perform.

Having graduated with a bachelor of music in voice performance from Mercer and her master of music in voice performance from Indiana University, Hunt believes that all of her hard work is finally paying off dividends.

After winning the Palm Beach International Voice competition in April 2002, she was cast in the title role of Lucia in Donizetti’s *Lucia di Lammermoor* performed by the Palm Beach Opera in January 2003. The reviewer for South Florida’s *Sun-Sentinel* said her performance “showed why there is such a buzz about this gifted young singer.” He also indicated that Hunt “clearly has a great future ahead of her.”

Hunt is more humble about the praise. “I am not really at the level yet where there is a lot of attention,” said Hunt. “If I make it to the Met [The Metropolitan Opera in New York], *then* there will be attention.”

Husband **Jeremy Hunt**, CLA ’97, who also graduated with a bachelor of music in voice performance is currently working on his doctorate in voice performance, pedagogy and song literature with a minor in stage directing at Indiana University. He plans to sing professionally and have a teaching career.



1972

Ninna Irby Burkill, BA, has just completed 25 years of employment at Duke University Medical Center as a child life specialist. She and her husband, Michael, and their two children, Peter, 20, and Caitlin, 14, reside in Durham, N.C.

1974

Jeffery E. Merry, BA, is the founder and owner of The Business House Inc., offering services in business brokerage and consulting. He is the president of the Georgia Association of Business Brokers, as well as camp director for the Rainey Mountain Boy Scout Camp. His wife, **Rebecca Speir Merry**, BA ’75, is a local attorney in Gainesville.

Mary Ellen Wilson, BA, is the vice president for Academic Affairs at Middle Georgia College in Cochran.

1975

Rebecca Speir Merry, BA. *See Jeffery E. Merry, BA ’74.*

1981

Charles Beard, BS, earned a doctor of philosophy degree in plant physiology from Clemson University in May 2002.

William Gabbard, BA, co-wrote *The Joy of Singing*, a vocal instructional video used to teach the basics of musical performance to young musicians nationwide. The video was co-produced by The United States Army Field Band, the Washington, D.C.-based ensemble of which Gabbard has been a member for 15 years. He was featured in “Celebrate the Stars and Stripes” in July 2002 on the TNN television network.

1982

Merv Rudner, BS, is a financial

I N S Y M P A T H Y

Friends

Michael E. Cauley of Macon, died Sept. 13, 2002.
William E. Clarke of Dublin, died Feb. 18.
Ralph H. Cooper of Thomasville, died Dec. 27, 2002.
Margaret Harris Englehart of Macon, died Feb. 13. She retired as a Mercer English professor.
Albert A. Favoino of Newburgh, N.Y., died Jan. 23.
Charles L. Guthrie of Lithonia, died Oct. 4, 2002. He began working on Mercer’s custodial staff when the Atlanta campus opened as Atlanta Baptist College in 1968.
James Y. Holloway of Lexington, Ky., died Oct. 21, 2002.
Wiley H. Holsenbeck of Jacksonville, Fla., died Jan. 5, 2002.
Vernon C. Jackson of Delaware, died Feb. 15. She had been the manager of the Mercer University Bookstore for many years.
Miriam M. Johnson of Gretna, La., died Aug. 30, 2002.
David C. Leonard of Alpharetta, died March 4, 2002. He had been associate dean and an associate professor of technical communication in Mercer’s School of Engineering.

Erin N. Peavy of Warner Robins, died Oct. 14, 2002.
Gladys W. Pritchett of Macon, died Jan. 16. She had retired from the Mercer University Library after 30 years of service.
Frankie R. Trice of Macon, died Dec. 9, 2002.
Lynda R. Walker of Fort Worth, Texas, died March 4.
Amanda R. Werner of Pensacola, Fla., died Jan. 4.

Michael J. White of Atlanta, died Jan. 17.

1920

Elbert L. Coleman of Macon, died Nov. 9, 2002.

1924

Claude Joiner Jr. of Bolingbroke, died Oct. 5, 2002.

1929

Alvah E. Joiner Jr., AB, of Dawson, died Nov. 10, 2002.
Troy D. Woodbury of Nashville, Tenn., died Nov. 30, 2002.

1931

Wellborn C. Carlton Jr., AB, of Charlotte, N.C., died Feb. 3, 2002.

1932

Dorothy C. Wood, AB, of Atlanta, died Oct. 2, 2002.

1933

Robert P. Ruff, AB, of Decatur, died Jan. 30.

1934

Reginald Trice of Macon, died Dec. 4, 2002.

1935

W. Devereaux Jarratt of Townsend, died Oct. 9, 2002.

1936

John B. Clark Jr., AB, MA ’39, of Cookeville, Tenn., died Nov. 10, 2001.

1938

James C. Balkcom Jr., AB, of James, died Dec. 9, 2002.

1940

Robert L. Stevens of Thomson, died May 12, 2002.

1942

Leanita B. Dorsey, AB, of Atlanta, died Sept. 25, 2002.
William H. Gray, AB, of Lake City, Fla., died Sept. 9, 2002.

1943

Thaddeus H. Roddenbery, AB, of Holden, Mass., died Dec. 17, 2002.

1944

Mildred A. Mallory of LaGrange, died Feb. 19.

1945

E. Anne Horton, AB, of Rock Falls, Ill., died May 17, 2002.

1946

Sam L. Whitmire, AB, of Barnesville, died Nov. 10, 2002.

1947

J. Virgil Colson, AB, of Columbia, S.C., died July 22, 2002.
Rev. G. Guy Walton, AB, of Stone Mountain, died Dec. 17, 2002.

1948

Emmie T. Beverly, AB, of Jesup, died Sept. 14, 2002.

1949

Wallace Cole Hogan Sr., AB, of Macon, died Dec. 18, 2002.

1950

Oliver L. Addison Jr., AB, of Macon, died Dec. 3, 2002.

Victoria Mell Newton, M.Ed., of Macon, died Nov. 9, 2002.

1951

Robert L. Hargrett Jr., AB, of Tifton, died June 22, 2002.
H.P. Henderson Jr. of Macon, died Feb. 3.

1952

James H. Burnett Jr., AB, of Newport, Tenn., died Nov. 7, 2002.

1953

Roy M. Turk, AB, of Jones County, died Feb. 24.

1955

Mary L. Dozier, M.Ed., of Macon, died Feb. 13.

1956

Charles J. Fowler Jr., AB, of Macon, died Oct. 20, 2002.

1957

Ted M. Adkins, AB, of Morrow, died Sept. 15, 2002.
Barbara Dodd Duckworth of Macon, died Nov. 9, 2002.
Mildred R. Stone, BED, of Tampa, Fla., died Oct. 13, 2001.
Martha G. Wood, M.Ed., of Milledgeville, died Feb. 22.

1959

Rev. Elmer L. Whiten Jr., AB, of Gresham, Ore., died April 9, 2001.

1961

Gordon T. Lackey, AB, of Greensboro, died Dec. 5, 2002.
Jerry L. Myers, AB, of Panama City, Fla., died Dec. 29, 2001.

1962

James W. Rachels Jr., AB, of Birmingham, Ala., died Sept. 5.

1968

E. Tom Shaffer, BA, of Macon, died Feb. 12.

1969

John D. Kidd Jr., BA, of Powder Springs, died Sept. 18, 2002.
Lynda R. Walker, BA, of Fort Worth, Texas, died March 4.

1970

Kathleen F. Deutsch, BA, of Macon, died Dec. 21, 2002.
Thelbert Gordon, M.Ed., of Rochelle, died Aug. 2, 2001.

1973

Thelma S. Jordan, M.Ed., of Jacksonville, Fla., died Nov. 2, 2001.

1974

Jan Curlee Cowles, M.Ed., of Barnwell, S.C. died March 1, 2002.

1978

Lamar Baldwin, BA, of Macon, died Dec. 3, 2002.

1980

John F. Hodges, BA, of Savannah, died March 18, 2002.

1981

Eugene T. Gravitt, BBA, MBA ’83, of Dawsonville, died Oct. 21, 2002.

adviser for Baer-Dressler, LLC, and was recognized as the top producer in 2002 for adding 32 new clients. He and his wife, Donna, reside in Woodstock.

1983

Ernestine C. Doscher, MBA, is the director of business development for Heritage Trust Federal Credit Union. She and her husband, Richard, reside in Charleston, S.C.

Suzanne White Witt, BA, M.Ed. '91, has been named the 2002-2003 Teacher of the Year for the Social Circle City School System after 19 years of teaching.

1986

Dirk Hilyard, BA, was named High School Soccer Coach of the Year for leading Hollywood Hills High School to the state championships. Hilyard continues to teach high school English and resides in Pembroke Pines, Fla.

1987

Candace Hamilton, BA, completed a master's degree and is now a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, working with students at Florida Memorial College.

Marcia Hicklin, MBA, was named senior program manager of integrated products at Sprint in August 2002. Hicklin was certified as a project manager professional through the Program Management Institute, in December 2002. She resides in Prairie Village, Kan.

Nancy Maddox Pharr, BA, published her first children's book, *When Should I Pray?*, an inspirational book for young readers just beginning to pray. Pharr and her husband, Cecil, reside in Lawrenceville.

1990

Dawn Jackson, BS, and her band, Hatfield Rain, released their debut CD, *Matter of Time*, on Sept. 23, 2002, on

her record label, Sho-Bud Music Inc. Jackson is the lead singer and one of the song writers. She resides in San Diego, Calif.

1991

Vickie Cox Edmondson, MBA, was named an associate professor of management in the School of Business at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2002.

1992

Laurie Byington, BA, received an Award for Academic Excellence in the Associate in Commercial Underwriting program in November 2002 from the Insurance Institute of America (IIA) for earning one of the highest grade averages on the national examination for the IIA program. Byington is an account executive for the Excess and Special Risk Department of Fireman's Fund Insurance Company in Alpharetta.

1995

Robert Twilley, BA, works for Jupiter Entertainment as the producer of the A&E network show *City Confidential*. He returned to Macon in November 2002 to film an episode on the 1958 case of Anjette Donovan Lyles, the first white woman in Georgia sentenced to the electric chair. Twilley resides in Knoxville, Tenn.

1996

Karen Romaine Thomas, EMBA, has been named vice president and chief financial officer of Ms. Smith's Bakeries.

1997

Curtis Bellamy, BS, has been recognized as a senior southeast sales representative as well as a joint compound sales manager for the Southeast. He and his wife, Lisa, and their four children reside in Easley, S.C.

Timothy Mann, MBA, is the president of the Norfolk Southern Corporation Federal Credit Union. He and his wife, Mary Elizabeth, reside in Chesapeake, Va.

Chrissy Dixon Pearson, BA, has been named director of public information with the North Carolina Department of Insurance. She and her husband, Marcus, reside in Holly Springs, N.C.

Kisha Morris Wesley, BA, has been elected to the board of directors for the ALS Association of Georgia, founded to respond to the needs of people with ALS, or "Lou Gehrig's Disease," and to support those who care for ALS patients.

Myers' Retirement

— Continued from page 15

ship game. That year his team went on to win the Junior College World Series crown, and he was named Assistant Coach of the Year in Florida.

In 1966, Roland Rourke gave Myers the head coaching position at Jacksonville University and asked him to turn the Division II program into a Division I program. He became the youngest Division I head coach in the country at the age of 27. In 1967 Jacksonville finished 11th in the country among its Division II peers (9th in 1968). In 1970, Myers' team, in its second year of Division I baseball, finished 18th in the country. Two years later, the Dolphins became the 11th ranked Division I baseball team in the country — a feat that is yet to be reproduced by a university of that size. The next year, before leaving to turn Mercer into a Division I program, Myers' team finished 21st in the country. He still has the highest winning percentage among all Jacksonville University baseball coaches and was named District Coach of the Year in 1968 and 1972.

Myers' early years coaching in Florida provided him with a wealth of baseball talent and, during Major

She and her husband, **Keith Wesley**, BBA '01, reside in Jonesboro.

1998

Melissa Golden, BA, celebrated the grand opening of her deli and gift shop, Hampton Park Eatery, in Hampton, on Nov. 1, 2002.

Vickie L. Shaw, BA, is the coordinator for residential education with University Housing at Georgia Southern University. She resides in Statesboro.

2000

Beth Lee Rogers, BA, is the missions internship coordinator and a trip leader for Adventures in Student

Missions. She is a full-time missionary and served in the Navajo Reservation during the summer of 2002. Rogers resides in Wheaton, Ill.

Jennifer Ryan Turner, BBA, was named a project manager II in the good answer department of The Coca-Cola Company in December 2002, where she handles consumer affairs for various restaurant clients. She resides in Atlanta.

2001

Natasha Usher, BBA, published *Fairy Tale Wedding*, a contemporary romance novel, in October 2002. She resides in Norcross.

Alumni... Commemorate your time at Mercer

Mercer University is in the process of designing and building a brick-lined plaza that will serve as the campus entryway to the new University Center. Alumni, students, parents and friends of Mercer now have the unique opportunity to capture and preserve their memories by purchasing a brick that will help line this pathway.

Your \$100, tax deductible gift secures a personalized brick that can include your name, year of graduation, and even your primary student organization, such as a fraternity, sorority, BSU or SGA — up to three lines on the face of the brick. As part of this offer, Mercer University will send a written acknowledgment of your gift, including the wording as it will appear on the brick.



YES, I want to participate in this unique opportunity!

Your Name _____ Class Year _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City/State/Zip _____

Please print your name as you would like it to appear on the brick. One character (including letters, spaces, punctuation marks, etc. — Greek letters may be used) per block and a maximum of 14 characters per line.

Line 1 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
Line 2 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
Line 3 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

Abbreviations for Colleges & Schools

CLA	College of Liberal Arts	MD	School of Medicine
BUS	Stetson School of Business and Economics	PHA	Southern School of Pharmacy
EDU	Tift College of Education	THEO	McAfee School of Theology
ENG	School of Engineering	TIFT	Tift College
LAW	Walter F. George School of Law		

Please return this form with your check, payable to Mercer University, to The Office of Alumni Services, 1400 Coleman Ave., Macon, GA 31207. Questions? Please call (800) 837-2911 for more information.

www.mercer.edu

I N S I D E

THE MERCERIAN

Winter 2004 • Volume 14, Number 1

- 1 *Mercer's Legacy Expands Worldwide*
- 2 *Swindle Named Atlanta Senior V.P.
Mercer Opens Regional Academic Center in Henry County*
- 3 *Students Teach Professors in New Program
Pat Conroy Receives Honorary Degree
Mercer MBA Grad Develops Mercer Village
Mercer Purchases Baptist Center from Georgia Baptist Convention*
- 4 *Silver Named Georgia Professor of the Year
Professor Shepherd Receives Prestigious Fulbright Award
McDuffie Concert Benefits Students*
- 5 *Pharmacy School Admissions Getting Tough
Hall Named for Neva Langley Fickling
Awards Presented at Mercer Luncheon at the 2003 Georgia Baptist
Convention*
- 6 *Mercer ROTC Cadet Climbing Military Ranks
Mercer Business Students Encounter Antiglobal Protests
Executive Forum Features Grace*
- 7 *Students Benefit from Internship Program
"Give More, Get More" — Mercer's Gift Annuity Program
Mercer Alumni Online to Launch Soon*
- 8 *Teaching Methods Inspire Children to Read
Graduate Program Focuses on Diversity*
- 9 *Martray Appointed Education Dean at Mercer
PT3 Grant Provides Cutting-Edge Technology Training*
- 10 *Half Century Club
Mercer Madness*
- 11 *Mercer Commencement Ceremony Speakers*
- 12 *MU Engineering Student Earns Triple Honors
Mercer and RAFB Celebrate Partnership
Mercer STC Chapter Wins National Awards*
- 13 *Mercer Students Help in Research for NASA
Mercer Attracts Women in Engineering
Tiger Trap!*
- 14 *Bears Win Championship in Gym's Last Season
Three Mercer Coaches Named Best in the A-Sun*
- 15 *Myers' Retirement: A Celebration of Excellence*
- 16 *Class Notes*

Share Your Latest News!

Alumni Services would like to keep your classmates up to date on your latest news. If you've recently moved or are planning to relocate, please send in this form so we can keep our records current. We also want to know if you have recently married, had a baby, received a promotion, retired or accomplished something else noteworthy.

Name _____

Maiden Name _____

Class Year _____

School or College _____

Degree _____

Street or Box Number _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Business Name _____

Title _____

Business Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Business Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

"Chip Off the Old Block" —

Please list any family members who are Mercer alumni.

News to Share _____

PLEASE RETURN TO: Office of Alumni Services, Mercer University,
1400 Coleman Avenue, Macon, GA 31207 • Fax: (478) 301-4124
Or visit our Web site at www.mercer.edu

THE MERCERIAN

A Publication for Alumni and Friends of Mercer University

Winter 2004 • Volume 14, Number 1



We've Got Spirit!

Mercer opened its brand new University Center arena during Homecoming week. The Mercer Bears delivered four outstanding wins, leaving the men's and women's teams undefeated in the arena. Students showed up in force to share their support and school spirit.

Construction is still being completed on other areas of the University Center. Look for full coverage of the UC and all of its amenities in the next issue of *The Mercerian*.